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IF FITIAL STEPS DOWN OR IS IMPEACHED

Inos: I'm prepared to be governor

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

» Senate, House work on placing next officers

Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos said yesterday he is "prepared" to become governor, something that he said is expected of any lieutenant governor if the highest chief executive officer is not available to perform his or her duties.

Inos broke his silence amid indications from the incoming 18th House of Representatives that they will again try to impeach Gov. Benigno R. Fitial and let him face trial in the Senate for allegations of corruption, neglect of duty, and felony.

If Fitial heeds Rep. Joe Deleon Guerrero's (IR-Saipan) and anti-corruption advocates' call for him to step down or be impeached in January 2013, Inos as lieutenant governor will become the gov-

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Fitial to revive Fund board

» Two board trustees appointed
» Admin surprised with Fund's decision to halt release of refunds

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Fitial administration will be reviving the board of trustees of the NMI Retirement Fund in order to stop the assessment of "unreasonable fees" by the agency's trustee *ad litem*, according to press secretary Angel A. Demapan yesterday.

In fact, Gov. Benigno R. Fitial has already appointed two members to the board—Alvaro Santos and Martin DLG. San Nicolas—to pursue this course of action, Demapan added

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RELATED NEWS

➤ Fitial wants govt relieved of paying *ad litem*'s fees. PAGE 6

Senate poised to confirm AG nominee

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

» San Nicolas: I will restore public trust, confidence

Senators are poised to confirm Gov. Benigno R. Fitial's nomination of Joey Patrick San Nicolas as CNMI attorney general during Friday's session on Tinian, following yesterday's public hearing on his nomination. All oral and written testimonies favored his confirmation, citing his qualification, good work ethic, dedication to serve the CNMI, and his pledge to restore public trust and confidence in the Office of the Attorney General.

San Nicolas reiterated that before accepting the nomination, he was aware that the OAG "has been mired in controversy" and has a "mountain of challenges."

The first from Tinian to be nominated attorney general, San Nicolas also said that given the chance to become the highest legal officer in the CNMI, the OAG will "prosecute those who have violated the law."

He said with the support of the attorneys and staff at the OAG, the Executive

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HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Acting attorney general Viola Alepuyo, right, testifies before the Senate Committee on Executive Appointments and Government Investigations supporting the governor's nomination of attorney Joey Patrick San Nicolas, left, as CNMI attorney general during yesterday's public hearing on San Nicolas' appointment, in the Senate chamber on Capital Hill. In the background is Tinian Mayor Ramon Dela Cruz, who also urged senators to confirm the AG nomination.

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OPINION METER
This week's poll:

With the defeat of candidates aligned with him and the possibility that he may be impeached in January, should Gov. Benigno R. Fitial resign now?

Let your voice be heard! Go to www.saipantribune.com to cast your vote.

INSIDE

NATION

The sex scandal that felled CIA Director David Petraeus widens.

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Opposition leader Mouaz al-Khatib is described as a man of the people.

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LIFE & STYLE

The Rolling Stones is celebrating the band's 50th anniversary.

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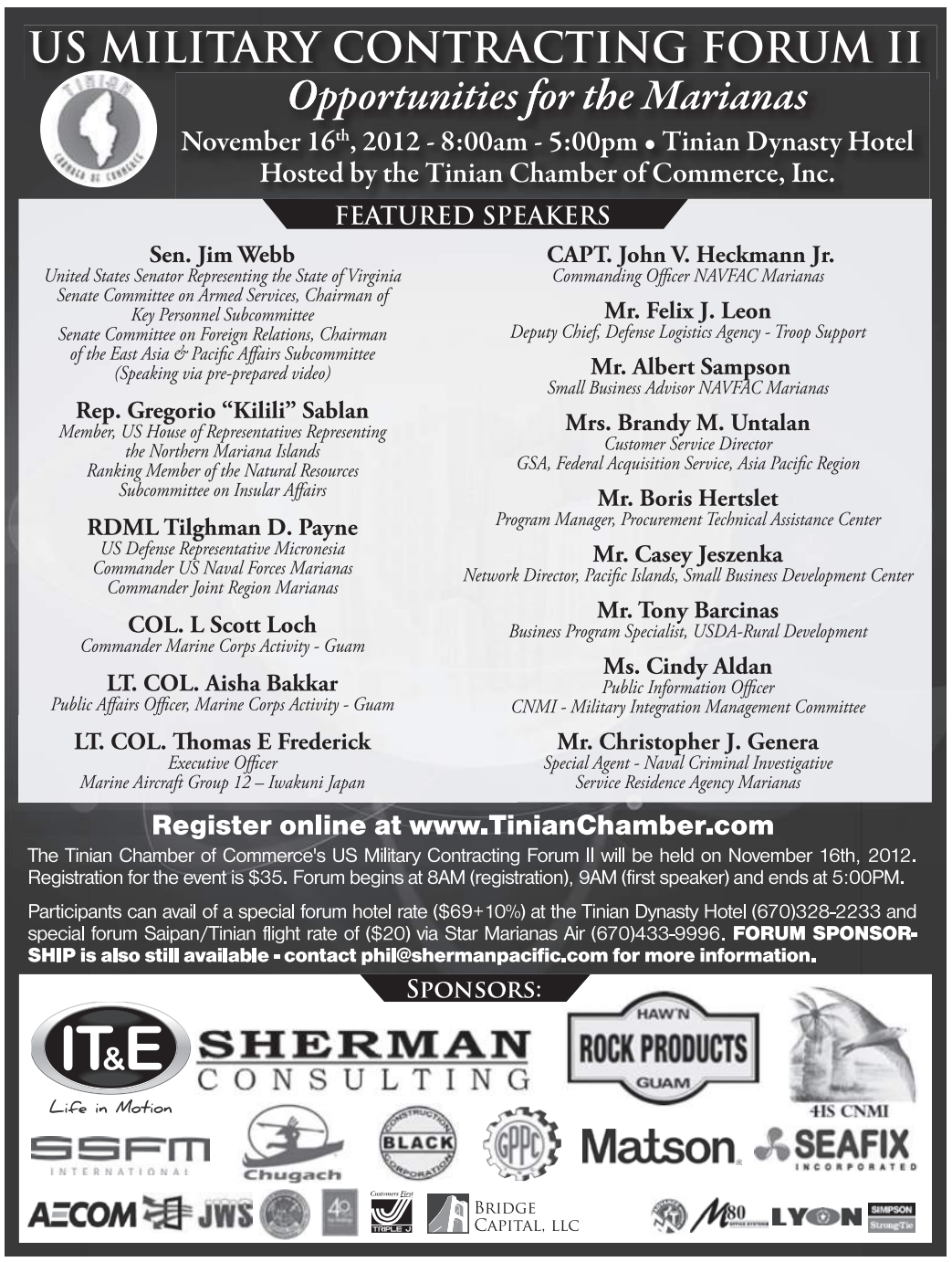
US MILITARY CONTRACTING FORUM II
Opportunities for the Marianas
November 16th, 2012 - 8:00am - 5:00pm • Tinian Dynasty Hotel
Hosted by the Tinian Chamber of Commerce, Inc.
FEATURED SPEAKERS
Sen. Jim Webb
United States Senator Representing the State of Virginia
Senate Committee on Armed Services, Chairman of Key Personnel Subcommittee
Senate Committee on Foreign Relations, Chairman of the East Asia & Pacific Affairs Subcommittee
(Speaking via pre-prepared video)
Rep. Gregorio "Kilili" Sablan
Member, US House of Representatives Representing the Northern Mariana Islands
Ranking Member of the Natural Resources Subcommittee on Insular Affairs
RDML Tilghman D. Payne
US Defense Representative Micronesia
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Mr. Tony Barcinas
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Special Agent - Naval Criminal Investigative Service Residence Agency Marianas
Register online at www.TinianChamber.com
The Tinian Chamber of Commerce's US Military Contracting Forum II will be held on November 16th, 2012. Registration for the event is $35. Forum begins at 8AM (registration), 9AM (first speaker) and ends at 5:00PM.
Participants can avail of a special forum hotel rate ($69+10%) at the Tinian Dynasty Hotel (670)328-2233 and special forum Saipan/Tinian flight rate of ($20) via Star Marianas Air (670)433-9996. FORUM SPONSORSHIP is also still available - contact phil@shermanpacific.com for more information.
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Local

Walter Manglona loses post at Aging

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Aging Office program coordinator Walter A. Manglona will be leaving the agency by December after the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs decided not to renew his employment contract.

Manglona confirmed yesterday that he received a letter notifying him of his non-renewal at around 2:15pm on Tuesday from Aging director Rose Mondala.

"I did not speak to the director after receiving the letter," he said in an email response. "I just walked away. I knew this was coming."

Manglona said the letter, signed by DCCA Secretary Melvin Faisao, did not specify a reason why his contract won't be renewed but stated that his last day at work is on Nov. 30.

"In the letter they mentioned that their decision is not appealable. I was graded exceptional recently in my job evaluation and have done so many things for our *man'amko*, yet DCCA feels that I should be kicked out," he said in his Facebook post.

This development comes a month after initial reports of Manglona's non-renewal came up, causing an uproar among congregates at the Aging Center, who threatened to walk out on Oct. 17.

Working at the center for over a decade, Manglona has helped develop and improve the programs and activities of the *man'amko*.

But Manglona came under fire after endorsing the candidacy of re-elected CNMI delegate Gregorio Kilili Sablan, his sentiments against corruption in the government, and outright support for the impeachment of Gov. Benigno R. Fitial.

Manglona noted that he wasn't the only one being kicked out of the office. He said Ramona Dela Cruz, Jo-Ann Aquino, and Francisco Villagomez are also being ousted.

"What they did to us is foolish and pathetic," he said.

Manglona revealed that Mondala even locked his office before leaving for Tinian yesterday. He said he called in sick but went to work later that day when he felt a little better, only to find out that he was locked out of his office. Mondala allegedly took the key with her.

According to Manglona, he was appointed to a civil service position and was renewed for 10 years for his satisfactory to exceptional performance rating reports.

His position as Community Development Specialist III, Manglona said, is covered by and subject to the rules and regulations promulgated by the CNMI Civil Service Commission.

See WALTER on Page 4

Pet registration slows down to a trickle

The registration for the Dog Control Program administered by the Saipan Mayor's Office is not doing as well as had been expected, program officer Vic Pangelinan said yesterday.

"We believe that there are still a lot of people out there that need to get their pets registered. But for whatever reason that they have, they're not coming out," Pangelinan told *Saipan Tribune*.

The registration, which began in June 2011, has drawn about 1,500 pets on island, for one- to five-year licenses.

Since June 2012, however, only about 300 pets have been brought in for registration, according to Pangelinan.

He emphasized that registration is open during working hours all-year round at the Mayor's Office located at the Ladera Center along Beach Road.

"But every now and then, we go out and try to make it more convenient for the public to come and register their pets. We go to different villages when we have the time and resources for on-site registration," said Pangelinan.

On-site registration is currently being done across the post office in Chalan Kanoa. The next on-site registration is on Capital Hill.

He encouraged all pet owners to go out and register their pets, reminding them to pay for the license fees first and then bring the receipt to the Mayor's Office where they will be given the tags for their pets.

Payment of fees may be made at any of the three sites: CNMI Treasury Office on Capital Hill, Division of Revenue & Taxation in Dandan, or the Superior Court in Susupe.

Fees remain the same. For unaltered dogs, a one-year license costs $10; two years, $18; three years, $26; four years, $34; and five years, $42.

Fees for altered dogs are as follows: one-year license, $6; two years, $10; three years, $14; four years, $18; and five years, $24.

For senior citizen pet owners, a one-year license costs $5; two years, $8; three years, $10; four years, $12; and five years, $15.

Service dogs for disabled persons are free of charge.

'Aggressive'

"We're going to be aggressive soon in rounding up unlicensed dogs and pets once the kennel is up and running," warned Pangelinan. The Mayor's Office earlier said that the dog pound will have 40 holding cells,

Pangelinan said they aim to start running this facility in Lower Base before the end of the year.

"To all pet owners, I know how much you love your pets so please come out and register them," he said.

Those who want to adopt a pet may stop by or call the Mayor's Office to give your name and contact number. "If we get healthy dogs that can be adopted easily, we'll give you a call so you can come over and look at it or you can come in and we'll bring you to where the animal is."

For more information, visit the Mayor's Office at the second floor of Ladera Center along Beach Road or call 234-6208. ***(Clarissa V. David)***

BEH shuts down tofu maker for poor sanitation

The Bureau of Environmental Health suspended yesterday an establishment on Capital Hill for what it described as "recurring poor sanitary practices."

In a report to Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. CEO Juan N. Babauta, bureau director John Tagabuel disclosed that the Yong Fu Tofu Manufacture was suspended for unsanitary conditions found during an inspection yesterday morning.

The bureau report showed that the facility was cited for repeat violations such as filth build-up from flooring to preparation table, equipment, and walls.

Doors were also found wide open for stray animals and other vectors to enter. The same report also bared a strong odor detected within the establishment and outdoor premises.

The report also disclosed that aside from the illegal disposal of wastewater on open ground, the existing septic tank at the site was overflowing. According to the bureau, overgrown vegetation, wastewater, open water catchment, and the presence of junk on the premises are considered harborage.

According to Tagabuel, the establishment was placed under temporary suspension in May this year and its management was penalized for resuming without the bureau's clearance.

Saipan Tribune learned that BEH will collaborate and report to the Division of Environmental Quality the effluent discharges cited in the inspection report. BEH will also revisit its records to establish history for further BEH mitigation or resolution. ***(Moneth G. Deposa)***

Missing child found; police investigating

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Department of Public Safety is investigating the case of an 8-year-old boy who went missing Tuesday then showed up at his San Jose residence the next day.

Police spokesman Jason T. Tarkong confirmed that the father of Gerald A. Aquino called 911 around 2:31am Tuesday, saying that the young boy had appeared at their house.

Tarkong said police detectives immediately responded to the call from Aquino's father and confirmed that the boy was home safe.

He noted that the child was covered with dirt but did not have visible injuries.

"The investigation on the child's whereabouts is ongoing. Any further information regarding this case will be withheld pending the outcome of the investigation," Tarkong added.

Police officers were dispatched Tuesday at 8:46pm after receiving a missing child incident at a barracks on Ellegh Avenue on the dead end street behind Dolphin's store.

The missing child, Aquino, was last seen by his mother, Edita I. Araquel, at about 5:30pm after the 8-year-old boy asked his mother if he could stay back and play with his friends at the barracks near Kim's Tofu store.

Aquino reportedly did not return home at 6pm, prompting the mother to look for him by walking back to the area where the young boy was last seen. Araquel, 47, learned from a witness that her son was seen in the rear of possibly a beige Suzuki Vitara.

The witness, a neighbor, said a woman described as possibly local or Filipina in her mid-20s to 30s was seen driving Aquino home in the vehicle.

The witness overheard Aquino point at his house. The vehicle stopped at the boy's house, backed up and drove away from the house with the boy still in the back seat, moving south on Ellegh Avenue then made a right turn by Kim's Tofu heading east toward Beach Road.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Undated file photo of Gerald A. Aquino provided by police.

CHC, Guam hospital work on potential sharing of expertise

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. CEO Juan N. Babauta and COO Esther Muna bared yesterday three options they are working on to immediately have a laboratory director and a lab manager for the public hospital.

One of these is the possible sharing of expertise between the Commonwealth Health Center and the Guam Memorial Hospital.

» About $525K worth of medical equipment on the way

The U.S. Centers for Medicare and Medicaid gave the corporation only up to Monday to address this concern, which is cited in the second immediate jeopardy status earlier slapped on the corporation.

Of the three immediate jeopardy statuses slapped on the corporation in September, Medicare marked only one as "abated"—the lack of defibrillators at the hospital.

The two remaining immediate jeopardy statuses have to be remedied by Monday, according to Medicare. Additional deficiencies outside the jeopardy statuses have a Dec. 3, 2012, deadline for remediation.

Babauta disclosed that Muña has been communicating with GMH on the possible temporary hiring of a lab director and a lab manager from the Guam hospital until the corporation completes the announcement and hiring of permanent workers. The two positions have been vacant for some six years.

"As we speak today, this is developing. We will know by tomorrow if GMH can identify the expertise we need [lab director and manager] who can serve immediately in an interim capacity. GMH is willing to help us in this area so we can meet the requirements of CMS," Babauta told *Saipan Tribune*, adding that the "effective collaboration" with the Guam hospital was the result of a series of meetings between the two hospitals.

Last October, Guam Gov. Eddie Calvo, along with some Cabinet members and GMH Medical Director Dr. Larry Lizama, visited CHC and met with corporation executives. The main purpose of the trip was to explore and strengthen the ties between the two hospitals.

Babauta disclosed that the corporation is willing to provide GMH assistance with its need for an ultrasound technician.

If the first option with GMH doesn't work out, Muña is also communicating with HeadHunter to help in the search and recruitment of needed professionals. HeadHunter is an off-island recruitment firm that has a broad database of medical professionals and healthcare providers.

Another part of their strategy to fill these hard-to-fill posts is their request with the Department of Human Health Services, which could help bring in the needed professionals, probably for six months up to one year, until the corporation is able to hire a permanent director and a manager.

"Our highest priority at present is to immediately fill these two positions and we're optimistic because failure is not an option for the corporation," said Muña.

An answer from GMH will be known today.

Medical equipment

Babauta and Muña also announced yesterday that a new CT scanner worth some $325,000 and a new dishwasher worth some $200,000 are expected to be delivered in a month's time. Once they get here, both equipment need to be installed and CHC personnel trained, according to the two.

Both equipment are key to resolving immediate jeopardy statutes 2 and 3.

Babauta said that Medicare wants to see more convincing evidence that the two remaining immediate jeopardy statuses are being rectified. It specifically requires the corporation to submit checks paid to vendors, acknowledgment from vendors, and tracking numbers if equipment are indeed shipped out to the CNMI.

These documents are up for submission today, according to Muña.

Babauta and Muña disclosed that the corporation is also procuring a fluoroscope, lead apron, and detection badges for the hospital's radiology department in response to additional concerns cited by Medicare in its report.

As for other concerns cited by Medicare outside the three immediate jeopardy statuses, Muña said the corporation continues to fill up other critical posts in the hospital and documenting all training of staff and revisiting policies and procedures.

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SENATE

From Page 1

Branch, the Legislature and the community, the OAG will be able to better serve the people.

Sen. Jovita Taimanao (Ind-Rota) was one of only two senators who asked San Nicolas questions during the public hearing, focusing on San Nicolas' plan to restore trust and confidence in the OAG.

"I will come in and make sure all who work on behalf of the people at the Attorney General's Office [will abide] by those rules. That is laid out in the Constitution—provide sound legal advice for the governor and for agencies, represent to the best of our abilities the Commonwealth, defend our Constitution and pursue and prosecute those who have violated the law," San Nicolas told the Senate Committee on Executive Appointment and Government Investigation that held the public hearing.

Taimanao's question stemmed from the controversies surrounding former attorney general Edward T. Buckingham, now a fugitive from justice.

Buckingham allegedly used law enforcement officers to help shield him—unsuccessfully—from being served a penal summons for criminal charges filed against him. The charges included alleged violation of local and federal election law. A day before leaving the CNMI, Buckingham signed a no-bid $190.8-million diesel power purchase agreement that is now also a subject of a lawsuit.

If and when confirmed by the Senate, San Nicolas will be attorney general at least until voters elect for the first time an AG in November 2014 as a result of a recent CNMI constitutional amendment.

San Nicolas is currently a staff attorney at the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

Investigations

Sen. Frank Cruz (R-Tinian), chairman of the Senate EAGI Committee, asked San Nicolas as to the status of the Senate panel's letters to CPA asking for an internal investigation into the Aug. 3 and 4 airport incident surrounding Buckingham's departure from the CNMI. A similar letter was sent to the Department of Public Safety.

The panel wants an investigation into alleged misuse or abuse of government property and personnel, and other violations related to the use of armed police and ports police officers to allegedly prevent the serving of a penal summons on Buckingham.

Cruz also asked whether San Nicolas, when confirmed AG, will look into a separate letter that the Senate EAGI panel sent to the OAG, also related to the Buckingham-airport incident.

San Nicolas told Cruz during the public hearing that CPA has been investigating the allegations.

"I believe that a report is forthcoming and that report can only be transmitted to your office with the consent of the executive director along with the board of directors [of CPA]," San Nicolas said.

CPA executive director Ed Deleon Guerrero earlier told the media that CPA ports police did not violate any law related to the Buckingham-airport incident.

As for the request for the OAG to investigate the matter, San Nicolas said, "There will be a response, there will be action taken, we will pursue, we will investigate and make a determination whether formal charges will be filed, not against any particular person…but anybody who is investigated by the Office of the Attorney General."

He reiterated that the OAG "will prosecute those who have violated the law…based on investigations conducted within our office and information provided from the OPA [Office of the Public Auditor], DPS, or from other agencies…When we make that determination that this person, this individual has violated the law, we will do what is required under the Constitution, which is to prosecute. That is our job, that is my duty and I will not hesitate."

Residency

Cruz, in an interview after the public hearing, said a legal opinion by Senate counsel Jose A. Bermudes states that San Nicolas meets the constitutional residency and domiciliary requirements, a concern raised as soon as the governor announced his nomination in October.

"Attorney Joey Patrick San Nicolas did not abandon Tinian as his domiciliary and he returned to Tinian after a short employment on Guam," states the Nov. 9 Senate legal opinion, a copy of which was provided by the EAGI panel yesterday.

The NMI Constitution requires the AG to be a resident and domiciliary of the CNMI "for at least three years immediately preceding the date on which the attorney general is confirmed."

San Nicolas worked as assistant attorney general for the Guam Attorney General's Office from February 2011 to January 2012. He then returned to Saipan and worked as staff attorney at CPA.

None of those who testified during the hearing and those who submitted written testimony raised the residency issue.

Among those who testified in favor of San Nicolas' confirmation were private and government attorneys in Guam and the CNMI, including acting AG Viola Alepuyo, Guam assistant attorney general Jonathan Quan, attorneys Janet King, Ray Quichocho, Robert Torres, and Rosemond Santos, Tinian Mayor Ramon Dela Cruz, and Mary Ann Calvo.

Cruz and Senate Vice President Jude Hofschneider (R-Tinian) also read the names of at least 10 individuals who submitted letters supporting San Nicolas' confirmation.

INOS

From Page 1

ernor pursuant to the Constitution.

This was the first time Inos granted media interviews since the Nov. 6 midterm elections that removed almost all anti-impeachment lawmakers and retained and elected those who support removing Fitial from office.

"When I accepted the idea of running as a lieutenant governor…this goes with the territory," Inos said during a chance interview on Capital Hill yesterday afternoon "You don't want to have a runningmate or a person that runs with you if that person is not capable of carrying the mandate in the absence or in the event that the primary is unable to perform the duties of the office."

Fitial has been mum on the calls for him to step down or be impeached.

Inos said he is not taking a position on these calls for the governor to step down either.

"I leave it up to him. But like I said, there is a process. And of course, the governor has to make his own decision," he said.

Inos added that the governor "should be given a chance to defend himself as well."

"I mean this can't be just something that should be a foregone conclusion. He should be able to say his side as well," he added. "We can't try him in the media, it's not right, so there's a process. Of course the governor has options but I'm not going to pass judgment on that. I work with whatever that will come about as a result of this situation."

Inos said he is prepared for whatever might happen.

"Am I prepared? Of course, that's more the criteria for lieutenant governor. You're the second in command so if something happens to the primary, then you got to have to be able to carry the mandate," Inos said.

He said he and the governor never discussed this issue.

Fitial and Inos are long-time friends. However, when Fitial decided to return to the Republican Party, Inos opted not to follow the governor and stayed with the Covenant Party, becoming its titular head. Fitial later removed Cabinet members who remained with the Covenant Party.

Fitial campaigned for Republican Party candidates in the mid-term elections.

Race for next lieutenant governor

If and when Inos becomes governor, the Senate president becomes the lieutenant governor. And this is one of the sources of contention in the incoming 18th Senate.

To date, at least two senators are eyeing the Senate presidency in January 2013—either because of the prospect of being the next lieutenant governor until the 2014 election or a gentleman's agreement of rotation and seniority among senators in 2010 that the next president should be from Tinian after the post was held by a Rota senator and prior to that, a Saipan senator.

Senate Vice President Jude Hofschneider (R-Tinian), the most senior Tinian senator and now second-in-command, is the frontrunner to hold the presidency.

However, another senator is trying to cut a deal to become the president for the sake of becoming the next lieutenant governor, and would like Hofschneider to remain as vice president, at least until Fitial is removed from office at which time Hofschneider could hold the presidency.

Hofschneider said yesterday he is not prepared to comment on the issue, and so were other senators.

A meeting was supposed to be held yesterday afternoon among some senators.

Rep. Ray Yumul (IR-Saipan), who will be a member of the Senate in January after wining a four-way race last week, said his priority is to carry out the mandate of the voting public, which is to start the impeachment process that was started but was defeated in the 17th Legislature.

A challenge

Inos said he is aware of this ongoing issue among senators. He said he has not chosen a potential lieutenant governor, which in this case should be the Senate president.

"But I tell you, I think it would be nice if I'm given that opportunity but you know, I haven't crossed that bridge yet. And the process here is through the Senate organization and it's one of those things. It's kind of a weird situation because that process essentially gives you an individual to work with you that is not of your choosing. It requires a lot of compatibility, mutual understanding and so forth, but you know the Constitution provides for ascension of the Senate president into the lieutenant governor's position in the event that something like this happens, and we can't defy that process," he said.

Inos said this is a "real challenge."

It is not only the Senate that is having issues with its incoming leadership because the 18th House's so-called supermajority has at least two members wanting to become vice speaker: Rep. Frank Dela Cruz (IR-Saipan) and Rep. Janet Maratita (IR-Saipan).

A caucus has yet to be held for the appointment or voting of officers and appointment of committee chairs. But so far, Rep. Joe Deleon Guerrero (R-Saipan), the current House minority leader and main author of the defeated impeachment resolution, is the prospective next House speaker.

Dela Cruz said that since Deleon Guerrero is from Precinct 1, it is "only fitting that the vice speaker should come from Precinct 3," where Dela Cruz hails from. Maratita is also from Precinct 1. Precincts 1 and 3 have the largest number of House members at six each, while other precincts have only up to two.

Dela Cruz earlier said this will be his fourth term, while Maratita only has one-and-a-half term. Maratita corrected this yesterday, saying she also served in the 14th Legislature. As the next highest vote-getter in her precinct, Maratita was able to serve in the 17th Legislature because Diego Benavente stepped down as Precinct 1 representative in July 2011.

Rep. Joe Palacios (R-Saipan) called on his colleagues who won re-election and the newcomers to focus more on the crisis at the hospital and the NMI Retirement Fund, along with fixing the economy and lowering utility rates, rather than attempting to once again remove the governor.

FITIAL

From Page 1

The Fund lost its quorum in May this year.

"Gov. Fitial has nominated [Santos and San Nicolas] to serve on the [Fund] board of trustees in an effort to alleviate the tremendous cost to the CNMI government being charged by the federally appointed trustee *ad litem*," said Demapan.

According to him, federally appointed trustee *ad litem* Joseph Razzano has invoiced the government over $80,000 in services and expenses in just the last month and a half.

This is an amount, Demapan said, that the governor believes is too much, considering that the Fund only spends about $6,000 a year per board member.

Demapan admitted that the Fitial administration earlier wanted to abolish the board to reorganize the Fund. "But now the administration believes recapacitating it is clearly the best way to reduce or eliminate future expenses for the trustee *ad litem*. This is most especially critical considering that the longer litigation takes, the trustee's billable hours will exponentially increase."

"The governor is requesting the Senate to take swift action on the nominations because the Commonwealth is incurring tremendous expenses because the board lacks the proper quorum. This would be the best way to stop wasteful spending of the CNMI's limited resources and taxpayers' funds," added Demapan.

He also said the Fitial administration was taken by surprise by the decision of the Fund to withhold the release of refund checks.

"The administration was surprised to learn of this latest development since the applications were already reviewed and certified for funding availability. Moreover, prior to the bill becoming law, the administration sought and received the assurance of the Fund that they had the ability to pay out these contributions. It is unclear why they have now decided to backpedal at this point," he said.

The Fund cited as reason for the suspension the consistent failure of the government and its agencies to remit the employee and employer contributions to the agency.

Since the enactment of Public Law 17-82, which authorizes Fund members to withdraw their contributions in full from the pension program without resigning from government positions, over 1,700 members have filed applications, of which only 94 have successfully received their checks.

WALTER

From Page 2

Manglona maintained that the commission requires that civil service employees, upon attaining 52 weeks of satisfactory performance, become permanent in their positions. He added that those civil service employees who completed this one-year period with satisfactory performance attain civil service "property rights" for continued employment.

He emphasized that civil service employment after one year of satisfactory performance may only be discontinued by following civil service adverse action procedures and upon providing legal and sufficient cause to justify termination.

"I believe that the DCCA management action against me violates civil service rules and regulations and other rights provided by law," Manglona told *Saipan Tribune*.

Faisao and acting Aging director Rhonda Nogis separately declined to comment on the issue.

Manglona, who is also a recording artist, said he feels for the *man'amko* who are preparing for their Christmas program and other activities this holiday season.

"I pretty much handle everything around here [at the center]," he said, adding that the senior citizens are already excited as their Christmas album will be ready soon.

Manglona believes the *man'amko* will go on strike because of his non-renewal. "I will not encourage it though," he added.

"I hope the community will come together and continue to fight these corrupted people and hopefully our newly elected leaders will finish what we voted them in for. We want clean government!" added Manglona.

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Fitial wants govt relieved of paying *ad litem*'s fees

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial and Finance Secretary Larrisa Larson want the federal court to relieve the government of paying the Fund trustee *ad litem*'s compensation, which they described as unreasonable.

Fitial and Larson, through counsel Gilbert Bimbrich, asked the court yesterday to reconsider its earlier decision requiring the government to pay Joseph Razzano's compensation as the Fund's trustee *ad litem*.

Razzano, through his court filing, is demanding payment of $60,949.83 for his services.

Fitial and Larson said the court should exercise its authority and reconsider its previous order concerning the remuneration of the trustee *ad litem* because these were "in error of law and manifestly unjust."

The two said the court order requiring the government to pay Razzano's fees is not supported by law and that the *ad litem*'s compensation rates are not reasonable.

"The Fund does not cite a single case that supports the current compensation scheme. Instead, the Fund relies on the Guam Ordot Dump case and the Superior Court case to justify the current scheme," said Bimbrich in court documents filed yesterday, adding that both cases provide no legal basis for the court to require the government to pay the *ad litem*'s fees and the Fund's attorney's fees.

According to Fitial and Larson, if the court declines to reconsider and modify its orders, the court should unseal the *ad litem* and the Fund attorneys' detailed billing statements and require that all detailed billing statements be filed without seal.

The court, they said, should also not require the government to pay the Fund's attorneys' fees and they want attorney Daniel J. Berman as Fund counsel be relieved from his position.

"It is manifestly unjust to require the government—a defendant that has not been found liable of any wrongdoing in the case now before the court and that did not request the appointment of the *ad litem*—to pay for the *ad litem*. …Requiring such would be akin to ordering a defendant to pay a plaintiff's attorneys' fees before the merits of the case were decided," Bimbrich said.

Rate contrary to CNMI law

Fitial and Larson also questioned Razzano's rates, claiming that because the ad litem is not serving as the Fund's or board's attorney, he should not be paid at his hourly rate, which is $250 per hour. Past board trustees, they said, were paid at the prescribed rate established by law.

They added that the Fund's current litigation load and administrative docket should not affect the compensation rate for Razzano because these matters are part of his duty as a trustee and does not warrant greater compensation than the prescribed rate.

Fitial and Larson maintained their objection to Razzano's compensation, which they asked the court to establish.

Nagaoka students begin weeklong cultural exchange

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Students from Nagaoka City Jr. High School in Japan visit the Japanese Memorial Tower in Marpi to pay their respects for all World War II dead and to pray for world peace.

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Twenty-six students from Nagaoka City Jr. High School in Japan arrived Tuesday for their annual cultural exchange program with counterparts from Mount Carmel School.

"The students are excited to visit the CNMI for the first time and are looking forward to meeting with their counterpartners on Friday for cultural exchange plus home-stay," said PDI director Gordon I. Marciano. PDI is the group's ground handler on Saipan.

Accompanied by five teachers and a tour coordinator, the students began their weeklong tour yesterday with a World War II peace lecture followed by a ceremony at the Japanese Memorial Tower in Marpi to pay respects to all who perished during the war and to pray for world peace.

The visiting group also did some sightseeing yesterday at various historic and tourist spots, including the Last Command Post, Banzai Cliff, Suicide Cliff, American Memorial Park, Sugar King Park, and the Old Japanese Jail.

They are scheduled to spend the entire Wednesday on Managaha Island. Tomorrow, the Japanese students will begin their homestay with their host families.

The entire group will have a chance to shop for island souvenirs on Monday before they fly back to Japan the next day.

"They've extended their utmost appreciation for [Marianas Visitors Authority] for providing a warm *hafa adai* and *tirow* spirit along with Saipanda bags as gifts to each of the students. In addition, they would like to thank the CNMI Parks and Recreation for maintaining the site of the Japanese memorial. They appreciate very much the kind hospitality from all," said Marciano.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

RED CROSS SUPPORTERS

American Red Cross executive director John Hirsh, third from right, poses with Saipan International School students during a school assembly in the SIS library last Friday, Nov. 9. The students were recognized for their work in support of ARC's Club 200 fundraising event in October.

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
THIRTEENTH TINIAN MUNICPAL COUNCIL
Municipality of Tinian and Aguiguan
San Jose Village, Tinian MP 96952 CNMI USA
Tel.: (670) 433-3470 Facsimile: (670) 433-0814

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Thirteenth Tinian Municipal Council hereby gives notice that there will be a Regular Session No. 13-11 on Tuesday, November 20, 2012 at 10:00 a.m. at the Tinian Municipal Council Conference Room, regarding the appointment as Resident Department Head to the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs and Department of Commerce.

AGENDA

1. Call To Order
2. Roll Call
3. Testimony of the Mayor
4. Testimony of the Appointee

Name	Time
1. Marie Cruz San Nicolas	10:00 a.m.
2. Jose Pangelinan Cruz	11:00 a.m.

5. Public Testimony
6. Miscellaneous
7. Adjournment

/s/ Estevan P. Cabrera
Chairman

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
CUC-RFP-13-008

WORKERS' COMPENSATION INSURANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

The Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC), Office of the Executive Director, is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified insurance firms to provide workers' compensation insurance and administration for CUC's employees throughout the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) and when on official business away from the CNMI.

The RFP package and the scope of work may be obtained upon receipt of a non-refundable deposit from the CUC Treasury Section by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $100.00 for one set from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room 4, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays.

A Pre-Proposal Conference will be held on **November 13, 2012 at 10:00 a.m. (ChST)** at the CUC Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room 15, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Dandan, Saipan.

One (1) original and Six (6) copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-RFP-13-008, Workers' Compensation & Administration", to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 4, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, **no later than December 4, 2012 at 10:00 AM (ChST)**. Late submissions and conditional offers will not be considered.

All Offerors are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the Offeror due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a proposal or supply under the contract.

This Request for Proposal does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of proposals in anticipation of a contract. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations. The contractor shall be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws.

All questions regarding CUC-RFP-13-008 must be submitted in writing no later than **November 16, 2012 at 10:00 a.m. (ChST)** to Manny B. Sablan, Jr., CUC Purchasing Officer, via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all offers and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the government. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

ALAN W. FLETCHER
Acting Executive Director

CHAMBER TO NEW, RE-ELECTED LAWMAKERS:

‘Cut govt size, rebuild economy’

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Outgoing Saipan Chamber of Commerce president Douglas Brennan and incoming president Alex Sablan called on members of the incoming 18th Legislature yesterday to prioritize solving economic problems through legislative initiatives and reduce the size of government.

They were referring to initiatives “aimed at producing an economic climate healthy for existing businesses and job holders, as well as aimed at enticing new investment in the CNMI.”

“The SCC believes there is an advantage in addressing the need to decrease the size of government immediately following an election than prior to any upcoming election,” they said.

The new Legislature will be sworn into office in January 2013.

Brennan and Sablan also congratulated legislators that have introduced initiatives in the past that would reduce the size of the Legislature itself.

“The SCC hopes those members that still occupy seats in the Legislature will reintroduce those bills immediately,” they added.

Rep. Joe Palacios (R-Saipan), author of a legislative initiative to reduce the size of the Legislature that was defeated in the House, expressed hope yesterday that this proposal will be introduced again. Palacios lost his re-election bid.

Palacios’ House Legislative Initiative 17-4 sought to amend Article 2 of the NMI Constitution to shrink the number of House members from 20 to 11 and reduce the number of senators from nine to six.

The House killed his initiative even before it could get to the Senate and eventually, to voters. HLI 17-4 HS1 had also sought an islandwide election for House members and increase House members’ term from two years to four.

“I just wish that those who voted no to the initiative who used the one-man, one-vote rule should understand that any change in the Constitution is done by the people and for the people. They should have allowed it to be placed on the ballot for people to decide. But I hope somebody else will introduce it in the next Legislature,” Palacios told *Saipan Tribune.*

The Chamber said it believes that only through a cooperative effort between the Legislature, the CNMI administration, the federal government, and the islands’ businesses can the economic condition of the islands be improved “and returned to the vibrant economy of only a decade ago.”

The Chamber said it looks forward to scheduling meetings “prior” to the swearing-in ceremonies for both the Legislature and Chamber officials “to discuss priorities that should immediately improve investment climate and protect businesses currently experiencing difficulty surviving.”

They stressed the need to “recreate business friendly and business growth legislative initiatives, the need to cooperate across philosophical and political lines, the need to decrease the cost of doing business in the CNMI, and the absolute need to reduce government spending.”

The Chamber said the dollars legitimate businesses pay in taxes will directly contribute to the salaries of those newly elected, as well as government employees at large.

“An investment of that magnitude must be used to preserve and protect the lives and livelihood of the businesses that support them and the general well-being of the entire population,” the business group said.

Palacios, as well as other lawmakers, said addressing the problems about the economy, the hospital, the pension program and high utility costs should be a priority, and not only politics or another attempt at impeaching Gov. Benigno R. Fitial.

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Pacific firms get support of contractors' group

HONOLULU, Hawaii—The Native American Contractors Association announced last week its support and participation in the Pacific Business Partnership Initiative, to help business leaders in Guam, American Samoa, and Hawaii to advance business policy priorities of the region.

"This is welcome news to our advocacy organizations and businesses here in the Pacific," said Billy Ornellas, vice president of the Native Hawaiian Economic Alliance. "Many Native corporations of Indian tribes and Alaska Natives are *akamai* (knowledgeable) with decades of experience in business, and delivering services to the federal government."

Business leaders and advocates in the Pacific have been meeting to identify common goals and how best to promote policy priorities, partnering and healthy business growth, particularly in Hawaii and U.S. Pacific Territories.

"We have met at least once each year in either Hawaii or Guam for the past three years, and in 2013 will fully seat a group of business leaders to focus on the regional issues facing the Pacific," said Ornellas. "The addition of NACA to our collective efforts will only add to the strength of relationship building to support Pacific businesses."

NHEA is a nonprofit business advocate focused on increasing the success and growth of the Native Hawaiian business sector. NHEA coordinates an annual tradeshow and marketplace at the Annual Native Hawaiian Convention, and participates in the annual PBPI business summit. ***(NHEA)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

From left, Pacific Trading general manager Charles Cepeda, San Miguel Fly Away promo winner Audie Maratita, and Pacific Trading project coordinator Hygeia Zafra.

Lucky San Miguel drinker wins trip to PH

Audie Maratita will be going to the Philippines after winning a promo sponsored by San Miguel Beer, which is exclusively distributed by Pacific Trading Co. in the CNMI.

Maratita was the grand prize winner of the San Miguel Fly-Away raffle promo that was held at Joe's Bar and Steakhouse last Saturday, Nov. 10, 2012. He received round-trip airfare tickets for two to the Philippines, 3-day 2-night hotel accommodations, and 10,000 pesos in cash. Maratita also got a special San Miguel Beer jacket and a case each of San Miguel Pale Pilsner Beer and San Miguel Light to start his celebration for winning.

Maratita said he is very excited as this will be his first time to go to the Philippines.

He's not the only one who was lucky that night though, as Pacific Trading and Joe's Steakhouse made sure to give away more prizes to the people who supported this promo, thanks to San Miguel. ***(PTC)***

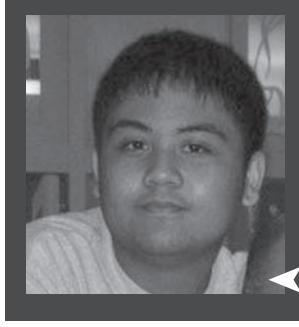
HOMEFRONT VOLUNTEERS CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

From left, Jessie Mae Seman, Alan Delos Santos, and Jennalyd Babauta, students of Marianas High School and American Red Cross volunteers, hold up U.S. Customs forms that will be used for Operation Homefront Support, an initiative to send U.S. service members of the CNMI holiday care packages, Tuesday, Nov. 13, at the Red Cross office. The students spent their after-school time to help handwrite more than 200 forms.

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUTS

Happy 69th birthday to a most wonderful mother, sister, grandma and grandmama on Saipan, Mercedes S. Palacios! We wish you many more blessed years to come and we hope you have a wonderful day today! We love you to the moon and back! Love always, your families on Saipan, in Oregon, and Vegas!

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Happy 13th birthday greetings go out to Joshua Santos! Wishing you all the best and we hope you enjoy your special day! Greetings come from your cousins Joanie, Brianna, and Joseph.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy birthday to my lovely granddaughter Kailynn Ulloa, who turns 8 years old today, Nov. 15! God bless and we love you! Greetings coming from Grandma Esper and the family.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Report Card Day at MHS

Marianas High School's First Quarter Report Card Day is today, Nov. 15, 2012. The students will be dismissed at 1pm. Parents and guardians can pick up their child's report card from their homeroom teacher from 4pm to 6pm. If you have any questions, call the Main Office at 237-3206. ***(MHS)***

MHS Class of '83 meeting set

The MHS Class of 1983 would like to invite everyone to join us for our general meeting this Friday, Nov. 16, 2012, at the Beach Road Pavilion in Garapan, at 7pm. If you have any question, call Tonnei Camacho at 483-9665. ***(PR)***

Military training on FDM set

The U.S military would be conducting military training at the island of Farallon De Mendenilla today, Nov. 15, from 9am to 3pm; and on Nov 16, from 4pm to 11pm. The general location of this activity will be on the island of Farallon De Mendenilla Training on a 10-nautical mile radius on all quadrants. Due to the danger imposed by this activity, the Emergency Management Office is strongly advising the public—especially fishermen, commercial pilots, and marine tour operators—to stay away from this area during the time and date indicated.

For more information, contact the EMO Operations Section at telephone numbers 322-9528 and 322-9529, VHF Marine CHNL 16, and HF Single Side Band Radio on 5.205.0 or dial CNMI 211. ***(EMO)***

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Nov. 15, 2000

Feds to conduct more crab samplings

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry have chosen five preliminary locations for the planned land crab sampling to determine the extent of polychlorinated biphenyl contamination. According to Anthony Barber, on-scene coordinator and environmental engineer at EPA Region 10, a more in-depth and extensive land crab sampling will be conducted next month covering different sites to be able to get a more diverse population of the sample. Three sites will be along the Tanapag beach area, one near the wetland area which is on the east side of Middle Road and one in south of Garapan, possibly San Jose, to serve as control area.

SESAP seeks BOE help to boost special ed

The Special Education State Advisory Panel has called on members of the State Board of Education to address what panel members called as "atrocious" situation of Northern Marianas' special education that has denied over 270 students with disabilities of unique educational services. SESAP Chair Ted Seaman appealed to BOE members to have more active involvement in uplifting the quality of services offered to special education students and to expedite the selection of advisory panel members that would finally complete SESAP. "We need authorities to pronounce SESAP as a legitimate panel working for the improvement of CNMI's special education," said Seaman.

Nov. 15, 2001

$356K earmarked for road projects

The Tenorio administration yesterday approved the reallocation of some $356,399 for various road paving and road improvement projects on Saipan. This came about after Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio signed into law two bills-House Bill 12-304 and House Local Bill 12-46-authorizing the said reappropriation. Under House Bill 12-304, about $106,399 that was left over from Public Law 9-24 will be realigned to pave the road from the Saipan International School to the Saipan International Airport.

CNMI urged: Explore other tour markets

Public Relations firm Starr Seigle Communication underscored the need to diversify the CNMI's tourism market in light of Japan's contracting economy. Starr Seigle Senior Vice President Charlotte Vick said that, with the Japan economy still recovering from the Asian crisis, the Northern Marianas should tap the potentials of other emerging markets in the region. Vick listed Hong Kong, Singapore, and Taiwan as possible markets that can help revive the Commonwealth's travel sector. She said Korea and China are doing well.

Nov. 15, 2002

NMI gets $368K in new grants

Gov. Juan N. Babauta on Wednesday accepted three grants from the Department of Justice totaling $368,000, which are being touted to go a long way in improving the criminal and justice system in the Commonwealth. The three grants consisted of the National Criminal History Improvement Program grant, amounting to $285,000; the renewal of the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Title V program grant, $33,000; and the Statistical Analysis Center grant from the Bureau of Justice Statistics, $50,000. Babauta commended Criminal Justice Planning Agency director Doris Pladevega for her work in securing the grants. Pladevega explained that the NCHIP grant, which is also funded by the BJS, is intended to improve criminal history records-automate them and link all the three islands into Criminal Justice-wide networks, which would be linked by the Federal Bureau of Investigation into a CJPA-controlled central record repository for criminal records and background checks.

EPA eyes grant programs for landfill

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is looking into some grant programs that could finance the closure of the Puerto Rico dumpsite. EPA-Pacific insular areas programs manager John McCarroll said that among those being looked at is the federal agency's Brown Fields Program, which could give the CNMI a maximum of $250,000. Although considerably low, the amount could help the CNMI start Puerto Rico's closure, he said. McCarroll emphasized, though, that there is no guarantee that the Commonwealth would receive federal money from the grant program, saying it is awarded on a competitive basis. The CNMI would have to submit an application.

Marianas livestock revolution underway on Tinian

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Over 10 Tinian ranchers have sought assistance for their grazing and livestock operations in the last six years with NRCS.

TINIAN—For hundreds of years Tinian was the Marianas meat shop, fresh on the hoof! Tinian served as a vital provisioning stop for fresh meat and related products for sailing ships crossing the vast Pacific Ocean. While the galleon ships of the past are no more, Tinian today remains the Marianas' source for high quality grass fed beef—a tradition that USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service and the staff of the CNMI Field Office are proud to support.

This centuries-old tradition is further supported through the efforts of Roy N. Tsutsui, Defense Representative Political-Military Affairs Adviser and Defense Coordinating Officer Representative for Defense Support of Civil Authorities.

Tsutsui works closely with Tinian residents to support access to Department of Defense leaseback lands. What are leaseback lands? The U.S. government leases back approximately 6,458 acres (2,614 hectares) of the land for one dollar per acre per year. For the past 37 years Tinian ranchers have been leasing land to pasture cattle, goats and Philippine deer, and to grow crops.

According to Lawrence Duponcheel, Secretary of the Tinian Cattlemen's Association, "The notable success of livestock production is due to many different efforts. Importantly, the cooperation and partnership from DoD with local government land agencies and the Tinian ranchers has been a fundamental element."

This important effort was supported by the NRCS CNMI Field Office staff and Tinian Soil and Water Conservation District working directly with the Tinian lease holders to implement NRCS best management practices following NRCS ranch planning recommendations.

Other important expert support and outreach is provided by the Marianas Grazing and Livestock Academy led by the University of Hawaii Beef Initiative Team and the Tinian Cattlemen's Association.

"The team provided training and transferred experience and knowledge to guide improvements in livestock production, health and breeding," said Duponcheel. "Along with Northern Mariana College – CREES referrals, Department of Land and Natural Resource equipment services and Department of Public Lands assistance helped secure land documentation required by USDA-NRCS."

"All these efforts, and more, have sparked a new era of sustainable livestock production on Tinian. It is great for Tinian, for the CNMI and for the Marianas," shared Duponcheel.

Over 10 Tinian ranchers have sought assistance for their grazing and livestock operations in the last six years with NRCS. Working with the CNMI NRCS staff, Tinian ranchers first develop a ranch or farm plan that addresses resource concerns (i.e. erosion, limited water, noxious weeds, etc.). Then NRCS planners work with the lease holder to identify appropriate practices and management to address those resource concerns and improve the quality of the pasture. The USDA-NRCS Environmental Quality Incentive Program helps cover a portion of the cost to install these practices.

So far, 484 acres of the Tinian leaseback land is under a NRCS conservation plan. This represents a total of over $380,000 of USDA-NRCS financial assistance for Tinian ranchers. ***(NRCS)***

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Dear People of the CNMI,

I would like to extend my deepest and sincerest appreciation once again, for all your support and for your vote of confidence in this past election. I am forever grateful for the trust that you have instilled in me to represent YOU, the people of the CNMI, and most especially the people of Precinct III.

I look forward to continue working for you and with you as we continue to work through the challenges that we are facing. Once again, THANK YOU, from the bottom of my heart.

Edmund Sablan Villagomez
Precinct III House of Representatives

Covenant
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

Dear People of the Commonwealth,
In Particular the People of Election District 1.

Thank you so much for the honor and privilege to once again serve you in the 18th CNMI Legislature. Please be assured of my commitment to represent, serve, protect and defend your interest in this August Body.

My Children and Family humbly join me in extending our sincere appreciation and gratitude to everyone who have in one way or another supported me throughout this campaign season. Indeed, we are truly blessed to have such wonderful people.

Our hearts are filled with gratitude. May God bless us all and our Commonwealth. Si Yu'us Ma'ase, Olomwaay and Thank you so much.

Kon Respetu yan Hinimitde,

Rep. Janet U. Maratita

Please join us for a Family Fun Appreciation Picnic on Saturday, November 17, 2012 at San Antonio Beach (behind San Antonio Elem. School) from 11am – 3pm. Everyone is Welcome.

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
Mark Rabago ASSOCIATE EDITOR

MEMBER
The Associated Press | Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Equality wins at the polls

For years, the debate about same-sex marriage was mainly an intellectual controversy. But in 2003, it moved into the realm of actual policy. The Supreme Judicial Court of Massachusetts ruled that under the state constitution, gay couples could not be denied "the protections, benefits and obligations conferred by civil marriage." Massachusetts soon became first state to issue marriage licenses to same-sex couples.

Since then, several other states have followed suit in revising marriage laws. But the durability of the progress was always in doubt. That's because the changes came via court ruling or action by the legislature, not from an irresistible tide of popular support.

Opponents took great pride that whenever citizens had a chance to weigh in, they voted against same-sex marriage—32 times in a row. The movement away from what they call "traditional marriage," they said, was the work of out-of-control judges and out-of-touch politicians.

But that is no longer the case. For the first time, the cause of marital equality prevailed at the polls. On the ballot Tuesday in four states, it managed a clean sweep.

In Maine, where an initiative went down to defeat just three years ago, the electorate did an about-face. Maryland and Washington voters also approved gay marriage. In Minnesota, a constitutional amendment to ban it failed, though it is still not permitted under state law.

On top of all that, an Iowa Supreme Court justice targeted for a decision authorizing same-sex marriage held on to his seat, unlike three others voted out in 2010. Chad Griffin, president of the Human Rights Campaign, told The New York Times, "We had success across the board and across the country."

It was bound to happen eventually. In 1999, Gallup found, 62 percent of Americans opposed granting marital rights to gays, with only 35 percent in favor. Today, 50 percent support it, with 48 percent opposed.

Increasingly, the public understands that letting same-sex couples marry does no harm to the civil institution of marriage, but promotes family stability, rewards loving commitment, and safeguards the interests of children.

Advocates also got a big boost in May, when President Barack Obama endorsed the idea. At the time, Ralph Reed of the conservative Faith and Freedom Coalition called Obama's announcement an "unanticipated gift to the Romney campaign" that would drive religious Americans to the polls to vote against Obama. But Mitt Romney saw little to be gained from pushing the issue, and it didn't impede the president's re-election.

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WHY DO I HAVE THIS UNSETTLING FEELING THAT WE'RE GOING TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE PETRAEUS AFFAIR THAN WE WILL BENGHAZI?
KOTERBA
OMAHA WORLD-HERALD

Crystal metamorphosis

By JAIME VERGARA
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Jaime R. Vergara (jrvergarajr2031@aol.com) previously taught at San Vicente Elementary School on Saipan and is currently a guest lecturer at Shenyang Aerospace University in China.

The weather farther northwest of Liaoning had been of late white, and devastating. From Xinjiang north of Taklimakan desert, into Nei Menggu (Inner Mongolia) and south of the Mongolian arid plains through the steppes to the shores of Bohai in the Liaoning peninsula (gulf south of Inner Manchuria), plants and animals were battered by old man winter. The vehicular knots on the highways were mercilessly difficult to unravel as well.

After Sandy and the nor'easter sliced through the U.S. Atlantic coast, we expected a mirror occurrence 12 time zones away. Sure enough, the wind and the cold obliged.

We do have the Bei Hai (East China Sea) and its warm waters, which keeps us in Liaoning from dipping below zero centigrade, but by the end of the weekend, winter wonderland laid its carpet in front of our residence at the Friendship Villa. We walked out of the door confident and fresh in our early Monday morning constitution, only to be upended by the slippery ice under the snow that got us flying up into gestures not normally choreographed in the skating rink, nor attempted by sane practitioners of winter sports.

Slip sliding away with the slush sloshing snow, we alliterated as we sheepishly raised ourselves back up, grateful that the winter clothing and the Russian cap under the parka hood provided enough padding to make our fall physically bearable. The red face of our embarrassment is something else, but being the oldest member of the teaching faculty, the aiding students were gracious in their solicitations, and I was only too willing to play the old man in need of attention and help.

The main thoroughfare in the university was bulldozed clear and quickly, but the sidewalks and walkways awaited the workers' spades and the students' spikes. Each time the snow falls, enough to keep the ground surface looking and acting like shaved ice, the students are immediately mobilized to their assigned areas for clearing. Snow frolics and fights inevitably ensue. Monday afternoon and Tuesday morning saw many gloves pitch their surefire hitters of frozen cannonballs.

Our thoughts, however, did not hover long on the white feather fluffs from on high, crystal ice from heaven. It is crystal meth that caught our fancy, with the accusation that one of our island political personalities having snuffed the stuff in his career, and the news that quality meth from Mexico is making it across the border to the US of A. Between "ice" and "ecstasy" hangs a long tale. We start with this piece. First, let me establish my credentials.

Full disclosure: We missed the LSD psychedelic scene in college in the '60s. In '79, we inhaled our first cannabis in the Blue Mountains of Jamaica (where *ganja* is literally weed, liberally smoked by everyone over 10), twice at both ends of a month, the first, while we were fresh and alert, and the last, while we were spent and distracted. The drug's effect intensified our state of being. We were superman ready to fly on the first, a tired dog who could not make the 10-degree incline to the residence on the last.

We medically smoked half a stick in early '80 while shivering with malaria in Nigeria. It was meant to calm us down. It sent us climbing the walls instead. In '84, a PCV in the Visayas let us share her wine and smokes. We had no reason to complain.

We kept our distance from recreational drugs for personal reasons. We did not find it necessary to boost our testosterone. We deferred for professional reasons, too. We assisted individuals physiologically and psychologically challenged by addictions. In that capacity, I sniffed a whiff of "ice" once on Saipan. Though it kept me lucid and awake for more than 24 hours straight, I decided I didn't need the super calibration that much. Besides, the effects of the slide down after were just as equally super devastating!

In our more than a decade residency in the Commonwealth, as a cleric for the Methodist Church, and as a teacher for PSS, we became too familiar with the use and abuse of drugs. Extend that to our extensive travels in the Pacific and we can say that our familiarity with the effect of the weed and the crystal is more than just academic curiosity.

Pacific Isle residents have difficulty metabolizing the refined sugar and high-level alcohol Europe brought. Betel nut and kava are consumed with ceremonial significance, more as pacifiers than disinhibitors. Pacific islanders are sitting ducks for chemical stimulants. Navigators brought tobacco, young Americans the weed. Drugs tagged development. Matrons downed pills to curb appetite and pare weight. Foreign factory workers drugged for stamina. They were often saddled with long hours of labor.

It cost $20 for a whiff of meth in 2009, $50 for an inch of sniff. Many stole for the privilege, some robbed for the habit, and not a few malversed funds, public and private, to keep the intense euphoria of the speed. Seven out of 10 CNMI indigenes, just for fun, reportedly tried boutique drugs in the '80s.

Neither religious fear nor legal prohibition has inhibited use and abuse. S/he with the clean hands cast the first stone. As with everything else in life, if we do not choose to manage a habit, the habit ends up managing us.

I'll stick to the crystal powder from the sky.

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The Saipan Tribune reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Petraeus' intellectualism was crucial to military; now nation loses his skills

By MAX BOOT
Los Angeles Times

Max Boot is a senior fellow at the Council on Foreign Relations, a contributing editor to Opinion*, and author of* Invisible Armies: An Epic History of Guerrilla Warfare From Ancient Times to the Present.

"The graveyards are full of indispensable men," it's often said, meaning that few are genuinely indispensable. David H. Petraeus was one of the few, which is why his loss for the U.S. government, after his admission of adultery, is so tragic.

This is not to imply that there are not other capable generals or intelligence leaders. But Petraeus was highly unusual, perhaps unique, for the grasp he displayed of modern warfare in all of its bewildering complexity. This was a task for which he had been preparing since his days as a West Point cadet in the 1970s, when he showed an early fascination with the Vietnam War, which was just then ending. He avidly read the classic works of Bernard Fall, Jean Larteguy, David Halberstam and other experts on the subject. He wrote his Ph.D. dissertation on the war, a decidedly unfashionable focus in the 1980s, when the U.S. military was eager to get out of the counterinsurgency business altogether.

Petraeus knew, however, that warfare had changed: Conventional engagements against mirror-image adversaries would not be the post-Vietnam norm. He got the chance to show that he could put his academic understanding into practice when he entered Iraq as the commander of the 101st Airborne Division in the spring of 2003, his first combat experience.

He did fine on the "march up" to Baghdad, but he truly excelled when called upon to garrison northern Iraq. He did not limit himself to purely military concerns because he understood that generating electricity and electing mayors would be as important as firing bullets and missiles, if not more so. More-hidebound officers looked askance at a dynamic young division commander who seemed to be getting out of his "lane." But Petraeus' understanding of what it took to prevail would be amply vindicated when he was called upon to rescue a failing war effort as the top commander in Iraq in 2007.

His success in reducing violence more than 90 percent was made possible by the extra 30,000 U.S. troops dispatched by President George W. Bush, but as Petraeus often pointed out, if those troops had been used as before, the surge would have failed. Petraeus adopted a new concept of operations, one that focused on pushing troops to live in small combat outposts in the middle of population centers where they could provide 24/7 security from insurgent intimidation. At the same time he orchestrated many other lines of operation, including encouraging the Sunni Awakening movement, increasing electricity production and pressuring Prime Minister Nouri Maliki to crack down on corrupt officials.

Petraeus was particularly adept at information operations. He did not engage in crude propaganda. I served as an informal advisor to him in Iraq and Afghanistan, and I not only interviewed him but also watched as others interviewed him. He was frank, but he avoided indiscretion. Amazingly, despite the countless interviews he gave, he never got into hot water over unauthorized leaks, yet he still won the trust and admiration of journalists. This is no small skill to master for a general serving a democratic republic, and it is one that few, if any, of his peers can match.

The U.S. Army, like all armies, is suspicious of outsiders, especially intellectuals and journalists. Petraeus, once a graduate student at Princeton, had a comfort level with scholars and reporters that enabled him to draw them into his efforts, whether to help write a field manual on counterinsurgency or to help provide independent feedback on the success or failure of his campaigns in Iraq and Afghanistan. Critics claimed that he created Potemkin village tours for outsiders, but this was far from the truth. In 2007-08, he sent me and others not only to counterinsurgency success stories such as Ramadi but also to still-dangerous areas such as Mosul where Al Qaeda remained strong. Petraeus was confident that presenting a warts-and-all picture would ultimately aid his efforts by increasing public understanding, and he was right.

Petraeus also urged young officers to get outside their intellectual comfort zone by going to civilian graduate schools and reading widely. Quite a few of his proteges followed his advice—including, it must be said, Paula Broadwell—but few of them could hope to match his success, in no small part because the Army, sadly, still regards excessive intellectualism as a debilitating defect. Perhaps Petraeus could have remade the military if he had been appointed chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff—a post he had earned—but President Obama preferred to shunt him off to the CIA where he would play a less public role. Now he is gone from the CIA too, and it is doubtful that the military will see his like for a long time to come.

Gen. David Petraeus

Former CIA director

Early years

Born 1952, Cornwall on Hudson, N.Y.
Education Bachelor's degree, U.S. Military Academy, 1974; master's degree, Princeton University, 1985; doctorate, Princeton University, 1987
Family Married, two children

Early military career

1995 Chief operations officer in Haiti during Operation Uphold Democracy
1999 Serves in Kuwait in Operation Desert Spring
2001-02 Serves 10-month tour in Bosnia as part of Operation Joint Forge

In the Middle East

2004-2005 Establishes and commands NATO training mission and the Multi-National Security Transition Command in Iraq
2007-2008 Commanding general of the Multi-National Force in Iraq during surge
2008-2010 Commander of U.S. Central Command; in charge of all U.S. forces in the Middle East
2010-2011 Top U.S. commander in Afghanistan

In Washington

2011-2012 Director of the Central Intelligence Agency; resigns, citing an extramarital affair

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Source: U.S. Army Combined Arms Center, AP, MCT Photo Service

I was a foot soldier for Obama

By JOHN JOHNSON
LOS ANGELES TIMES

LAS VEGAS—It was at a modest house on the outskirts of this gambling mecca last weekend that I finally became confident President Barack Obama would win reelection. As I approached the door, I noticed three young men standing inside, drinking beer in the middle of the afternoon. No point trying to talk a bunch of slackers into voting, I thought. Best to move on.

Then, one ambled over. "What's up?" he asked, clearly wondering why a middle-aged white guy was standing on his porch, clipboard in hand. But when he saw my Obama button, he broke into a goofy smile.

"We already voted," he said. It was still three days before the general election.

We've heard a lot in the last few days about the efficiency of the "ground game" that delivered the election for the president. I was just one pair of boots on the ground, so I'm not able to talk about how this thing was set up and managed by the generals and field marshals in Washington and Chicago. But from the vantage point of a grunt on the front lines—one foot soldier among thousands knocking on doors and trying not to get lost in strange neighborhoods—I can say the operation was impressive.

The last time I'd worked for a political candidate was in 1968, for Gene McCarthy. As I remember it, precinct work then involved a bunch of kids piling into a Volkswagen, heading to a residential neighborhood and knocking on random doors until we were chased off by angry Nixon supporters. After that, my career as a journalist didn't allow me to get involved in politics.

But with the 2012 election shaping up to be close, and no longer working in journalism, I decided to volunteer in one of the swing states.

The first clue I had to the campaign's efficiency was the prompt response I got after sending an email to the Nevada campaign. A worker asked for my phone number, called me promptly and assured me the campaign could use me.

When I arrived in Las Vegas, I was directed to the Stratosphere Hotel, where the campaign was putting up California volunteers (I assume in donated or deeply discounted rooms). The campaign office in the hotel, a short distance from the clinking of chips and the electronic chatter of slot machines, was in a state of controlled chaos. So many people had come from California—150 from Los Angeles alone—that they were having trouble finding rooms for all of us, though eventually they did by putting more than one in a room.

The next morning, I rode to my staging area on a bus that had been arranged for by L.A. City Council member (and mayoral candidate) Eric Garcetti. I expected the air in the campaign office to be thick with anxiety, given what people said about the closeness of the race. Instead, there was a sense of calm purpose and determination among the youthful campaign workers—black, white, Latino and Asian.

Before heading out, we were instructed on how to conduct ourselves: Be polite, make sure you know where to tell voters to cast their ballots, ask if they need rides. And finally: Make sure you don't mispronounce the name of the state. The second vowel in Nevada, we were cautioned, is a short A as in "cat" rather than a broader A as in "ball."

In the parking lot, next to the seven gleaming white vans that awaited us, were sheets of butcher paper tacked to cardboard listing the names and phone numbers of volunteers. Our driver, a business-like young woman from Spokane (without exception, every staffer I met was young and whip-smart), gathered us in a circle and asked us to introduce ourselves.

When we were dropped off, each of us was handed a clipboard, pens and a map with the addresses we were to visit marked. Next to each address was a voter name with an accompanying phone number and party registration. We were also given lots of bottled water to keep hydrated in the desert heat.

The first neighborhood we canvassed was dirt-poor, with more than a few abandoned homes, evidence of the housing collapse that hit Vegas so hard. As I began knocking on doors, I got a surprise. Even in this graveyard of suburban dreams, Obama literature hung from doorknobs at house after house, left by previous waves of volunteers. The campaign's shock troops had already blanketed this part of the city—and more than once.

Nevertheless, I found people who needed help, particularly with locating their polling places. The people I talked to seemed to really care about the election and about voting. I became so energized by what I was encountering that I found myself thanking Mitt Romney voters too for doing their duty. One of them thanked me back.

That night, I slept soundly. But the campaign staff clearly hadn't gotten much rest. When we turned up the next morning, they'd prepared a brand-new set of maps and addresses, all meticulously coded, as before, and attached to clipboards. They had recorded our results from the previous day and charted a fresh battle plan. This time, I was assigned to start at a huge apartment complex.

The most memorable exchange of my time in Las Vegas was a furtive conversation with an elderly woman through the back fence of a house with an eviction notice on the door. She quietly assured me that she and her husband would vote, regardless of where they were living on Tuesday.

When I got back to the campaign office after my last shift, I talked to an earnest but exhausted Obama worker named Edward. "I'm thinking you've got this sewn up," I said. He flashed a weary grin but said nothing.

Former Los Angeles Times *staff writer John Johnson is the author of a forthcoming nonfiction book* Peppermint Twist, *which tells the story of the mob-run nightclub that gave birth to the Twist dance craze. He wrote this for the* Los Angeles Times.

The Weather

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
Mostly sunny with isolated showers. Northeast winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Northeast winds 10 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲88° ▼77°	▲88° ▼77°	▲88° ▼77°	▲88° ▼77°	▲88° ▼77°

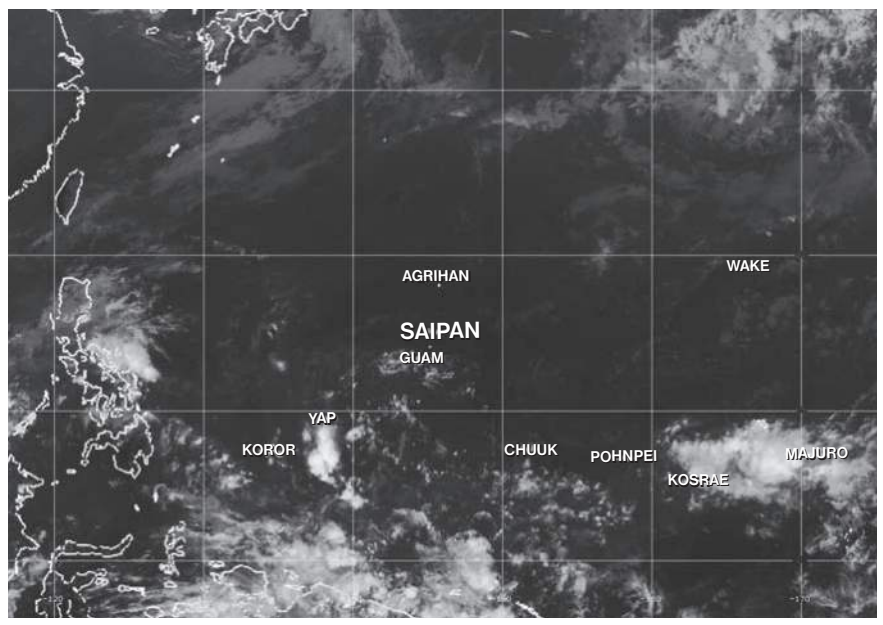
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Partly Cloudy	▲89	▼79
Palau	Showers	▲86	▼76
Yap	Showers	▲90	▼76
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲86	▼77
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲87	▼75
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	▲87	▼75
Majuro	Showers	▲87	▼80

Around The Globe

Auckland	Showers	▲65	▼57
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	▲48	▼30
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	▲82	▼75
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	▲84	▼72
London	Fog	▲47	▼42
Los Angeles	Mostly Cloudy	▲77	▼55
Manila	Cloudy	▲87	▼79
Melbourne	Cloudy	▲67	▼49
Miami	Partly Cloudy	▲81	▼67
New York	Sunny	▲48	▼34
Osaka	Showers	▲55	▼47
Paris	Fog	▲52	▼40
Pusan	Sunny	▲57	▼45
Rome	Showers	▲63	▼51
Salem	Partly Cloudy	▲55	▼37
San Francisco	Sunny	▲72	▼51
Seoul	Sunny	▲49	▼35
Tokyo	Mostly Sunny	▲59	▼45
Washington, DC	Sunny	▲50	▼37

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2012
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A weak circulation is centered just southeast of Koror at 6N135E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are north of Koror and near Yap between 8N and 14N from 130E to 138E. A surface trough extends southeastward from 5N139E to the equator at 150E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are within 150 miles of the trough axis. Trade-wind convergence is producing scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms across Pohnpei and Kosrae between 8N and 3N from 155E to 170E and scattered showers across the Marshall Islands between 9N and 2N from 170E to 180. A surface trough northeast of Wake Island extends from 22N173E to beyond 25N177E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are north of 22N from 165E to 180.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

2:12 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.7 Feet
9:08 AM	Today	High Tide:	2.1 Feet
2:38 PM	Today	Low Tide:	1.1 Feet
7:39 PM	Today	High Tide:	2.1 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:19 AM	5:44 PM
Friday	6:19 AM	5:44 PM
Saturday	6:20 AM	5:44 PM
Sunday	6:20 AM	5:44 PM
Monday	6:21 AM	5:44 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	7:24 AM	7:05 PM
Friday	8:28 AM	8:08 PM
Saturday	9:28 AM	9:11 PM
Sunday	10:23 AM	10:12 PM
Monday	11:13 AM	11:09 PM

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The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

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- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

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For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

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Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF NOV. 15, 2012

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)			
UA5070	4:35am	5:25am	2, 4, 6, 7
UA5062	4:40am	5:30am	1, 3, 5
UA5068	8:25am	9:15am	Daily
UA5074	11:10am	12:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA5076	3:10pm	4:00pm	Daily
UA5078	6:55pm	7:45pm	Daily
UA5072	9:45pm	10:35pm	Daily
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)			
DL287	6:00am	8:40am	Daily
DL297	4:25pm	7:20pm	Daily
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)			
OZ606	2:10am	6:00am	1
OZ606	2:40am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ604	3:20pm	7:10pm	Daily
SAIPAN (SPN)-PUSAN (BUS)			
UZ608	3:10am	6:20am	4, 7
SAIPAN-GUANZHOU (CAN)			
3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)			
3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7
SAIPAN-VLADIVOSTOK (VVO)			
VLK1734	2:00am	8:15am	5 every other week
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)			
OZ606/701	2:10am	11:15am	1
OZ606/701	2:40am	11:15am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
UA5070/191	4:35am	9:55am	3, 6 via GUM
DL287/173	6:00am	10:20pm	Daily via NRT
UA5076/183	3:10pm	9:25pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA5076/183	3:10pm	9:45pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ604/703	3:20pm	11:00pm	Daily via ICN
UA5072/PR111	9:55pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)			
OZ606/721	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ606/721	2:40am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5076/147	3:10pm	10:30pm	1, 5 via GUM
OZ604/749	3:20pm	11:20pm	Daily via ICN

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA 5069	2:45am	3:35am	2, 4, 6, 7
UA5071	7:05am	7:55am	Daily
UA5073	9:50am	10:40am	Daily
UA5075	1:45pm	2:35pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA5077	5:35pm	6:25pm	Daily
UA5079	8:20pm	9:10pm	Daily
NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
DL298	10:25am	3:00pm	Daily
DL288	8:40pm	1:15am+1	Daily
SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN			
OZ603	9:00am	2:20pm	Daily
OZ605	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
OZ605	8:10pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
PUSAN (BUS)-SAIPAN (SPN)			
OZ607	9:35pm	2:25am+1	3, 6
GUANZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN			
3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5
SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN			
3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
VLADIVOSTOK (VVO)-SAIPAN			
VLK1733	8:00pm	12:05am+1	4 every other week
MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
OZ704/603	12:10am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
OZ702/605	12:10pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
DL172/288	8:00am	1:15am+1	Daily via NRT
UA190/5077	10:55am	6:25pm	3, 6 via GUM
UA190/5079	10:55am	9:10pm	3, 6 via GUM
UA702/605	12:30pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA702/605	12:30pm	1:30am+1	7 via ICN
PR110/UA5071	10:10pm	8:00am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/5071	10:55pm	7:55am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/5071	11:59pm	7:55am+1	2, 5 via GUM
HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN			
OZ746/603	12:30am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
OZ724/605	1:50pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ724/605	1:50pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA180/5073	11:25pm	10:40am+1	1, 5 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; VLK: Vladivostok Air.

ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam–Rota			
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily
Rota–Saipan			
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily
Guam–Rota			
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily
Rota–Saipan	17:50	18:20	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily
Rota–Guam	10:20	10:45	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily
Rota–Guam			
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily
Saipan–Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Tinian–Saipan			
FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily

Business

Most in US won't be able to escape 'fiscal cliff'

WASHINGTON (AP)—Everyone who pays income tax—and some who don't -will feel it.

So will doctors who accept Medicare, people who get unemployment aid, defense contractors, air traffic controllers, national park rangers and companies that do research and development.

The package of tax increases and spending cuts known as the "fiscal cliff" takes effect in January unless Congress passes a budget deal by then. The economy would be hit so hard that it would likely sink into recession in the first half of 2013, economists say.

And no matter who you are, it will be all but impossible to avoid the pain.

Middle income families would have to pay an average of about $2,000 more next year, the nonpartisan Tax Policy Center has calculated.

Up to 3.4 million jobs would be lost, the Congressional Budget Office estimates. The unemployment rate would reach 9.1 percent from the current 7.9 percent. Stocks could plunge. The nonpartisan CBO estimates the total cost of the cliff in 2013 at $671 billion. Collectively, the tax increases would be the steepest to hit Americans in 60 years when measured as a percentage of the economy.

"There would be a huge shock effect to the U.S. economy," says Mark Vitner, an economist at Wells Fargo

Most of the damage—roughly two-thirds—would come from the tax increases. But the spending cuts would cause pain, too. The bleak scenario could push the White House and Congress to reach a deal before year's end. On Tuesday, Congress returns for a post-election session that could last through Dec. 31. At a minimum, analysts say some temporary compromise might be reached, allowing a final deal to be cut early next year.

Still, uncertainty about a final deal could cause many companies to further delay hiring and spend less. Already, many U.S. companies say anxiety about the fiscal cliff has led them to put off plans to expand or hire.

A breakdown in negotiations could also ignite turmoil in financial markets, Vitner said. It could resemble the 700-point fall in the Dow Jones industrial average in 2008 after the House initially rejected the $700 billion bailout of major banks.

The 'fiscal cliff'

With the election behind them, President Barack Obama and Republican leaders in Congress now must turn their attention to the so-called fiscal cliff, the mix of tax hikes and spending cuts set to hit in January.

How we got to the edge of the cliff

• **In summer 2011,** House Republicans refused to raise the federal debt ceiling, typically a routine task, unless spending cuts were enacted to lower the debt

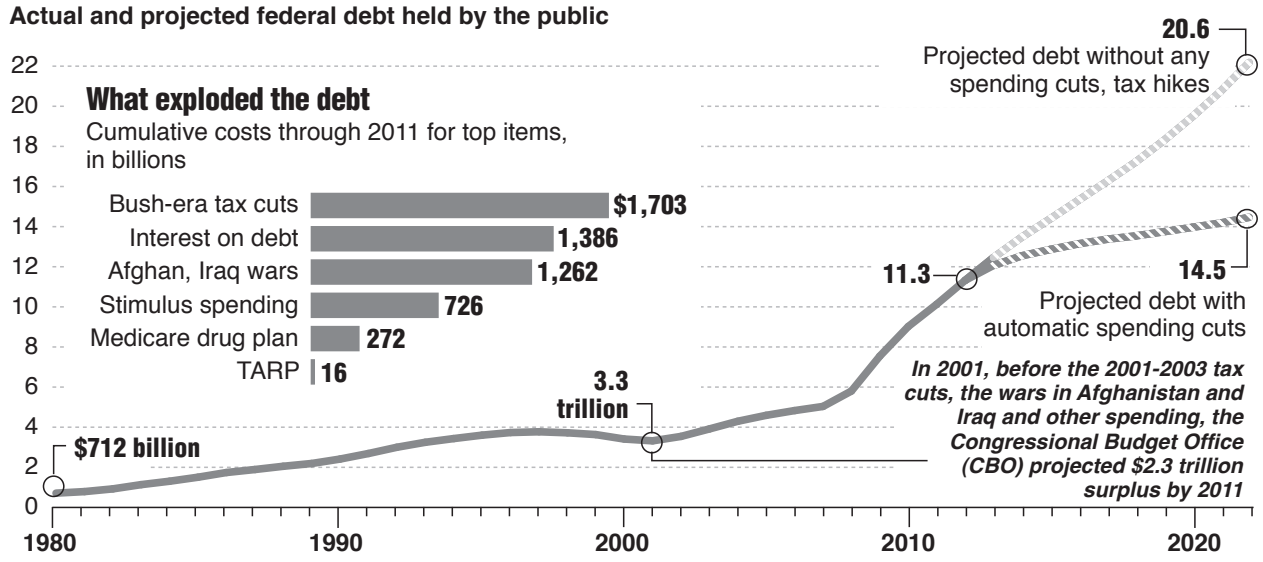
• **When the two parties failed** to reach a compromise, a bipartisan supercommittee was tasked with finding $1.2 trillion in budget savings over 10 years or face automatic spending cuts

• **The supercommittee failed,** triggering automatic cuts, called sequestration, effective January 2013; Democrats wanted spending cuts and tax increases; Republicans wanted only spending cuts

The main drivers: The Bush-era tax cuts and the federal debt

While Republicans focus on lowering the debt, they want to make permanent the Bush-era tax cuts – a major contributor to the debt – and gut federal programs to pay for them. Democrats want to let the cuts expire for households with taxable income above $250,000. The differences reflect the parties' attitudes toward government: One favors small, limited government, the other a larger, more pro-active one.

Actual and projected federal debt held by the public



The effects of failure to compromise

The CBO forecasts that a "significant recession" would result if the Bush-era tax cuts were let to expire for all and government spending is cut severely, as demanded by the sequestration.

Main taxes that will rise

Estimated tax hike for the average household $3,700

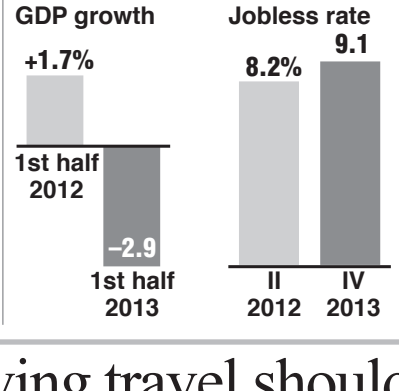
• Bush-era tax cuts expire at year's end, bringing tax rates to 2001 levels for all

• Additional tax credits for lower wage earners end

• Two percent Social Security "tax holiday" expires

• Temporary cuts for businesses end

Projected contraction, job loss



Principal spending cuts

Scheduled annual cuts, 2012-2021 $110 bil.

• Half the cuts will come from defense, half from nondefense, such as education, employment, social services, transportation, public health, administration of justice

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Source: Congressional Budget Office, The Pew Charitable Trusts, Council on Foreign Relations
Graphic: Pat Carr

US government runs $120 billion deficit in October

WASHINGTON (AP)—The federal government started the 2013 budget year with a $120 billion deficit in October, an indication that the nation is on a path to its fifth straight $1 trillion-plus annual deficit.

A soaring deficit puts added pressure on President Barack Obama and Congress to seek a budget deal in the coming weeks.

The Treasury Department said Tuesday that the October deficit—the gap between the government's tax revenue and its spending—was 22 percent higher than the same month last year.

Tax revenue increased 13 percent from the same month last year to $184.3 billion. But spending rose 16.4 percent to $304.3 billion. Spending was held down last October by a quirk in the calendar: the first day of the month fell on a Saturday, so some benefits were paid in September 2011.

The deficit, in simplest terms, is the amount of money the government has to borrow when revenues fall short of expenses. The government ran a $1.1 trillion annual budget deficit in the fiscal year that ended in September. That was lower than the previous year but still painfully high by historical standards.

Obama's presidency has coincided with four straight $1 trillion-plus deficits—the first in history and a record he had to vigorously defend during his reelection campaign.

The size and scope of this year's deficit will largely depend on what happens with a package of tax increases and spending cuts set to take effect in January unless the White House and Congress reach a budget deal by then.

If the economy goes over the fiscal cliff, this year's deficit would shrink to $641 billion, according to the Congressional Budget Office. But the CBO also warns that the economy would sink into recession in the first half of 2013.

Small airports gamble with revenue guarantees

COLUMBIA, Mo. (AP)—Road-weary travelers forced to drive two hours to St. Louis or Kansas City to catch big-city flights were ecstatic when Delta Airlines announced plans to expand service at a regional airport in central Missouri.

University of Missouri officials in Columbia, where the airport is located in the heart of the state, eagerly awaited the new Columbia-Atlanta route. Their excitement was short-lived.

Weeks after city leaders boasted in mid-October about luring American Airlines to Columbia with a two-year, $3 million revenue guarantee, Delta quickly decided to pull out of the market, saying it could no longer operate in Columbia at a competitive disadvantage. The Atlanta-based airliner held firm after Columbia floated a deal similar to its pact with American, partly because the city had first committed its available incentives to American.

From northern California to the Florida Keys, the airline courtship and subsequent break-up is both familiar and cautionary to local elected officials and business brokers who say that airlines are increasingly insisting on local government subsidies before they will expand service to smaller cities and rural areas.

"We wanted a level playing field," Delta spokesman Anthony Black said of the Columbia deal, which would have required the airliner to provide larger jets and wouldn't have started until 2014.

In Texas, Fort Worth-based American Airlines recently agreed to revive commercial service at the Jack Brooks Regional Airport in Nederland, which had been dormant since United Airlines closed its regional jet service, Colgan Airlines, over the summer. The return required a $1.5 million guarantee from local governments in Port Arthur, Beaumont and other coastal Gulf of Mexico communities in a region where two larger airports sit just 90 miles away in Houston.

AAA: Thanksgiving travel should increase slightly

NEW YORK (AP)—Slightly more Americans will hit the road this Thanksgiving, according to AAA. That includes people who are choosing to drive instead of fly as household budgets remain tight.

In its annual Thanksgiving travel forecast released Tuesday, AAA predicts 43.6 million Americans will travel at least 50 miles from home over the holiday, up just 0.7 percent from last year.

But while more people are traveling, it appears that the pent-up demand seen following the recession has largely dissipated. Demand grew a healthy 8 percent and 6 percent, respectively, in the two previous Thanksgiving holiday periods even though economic growth was moderate. Now, AAA says it will take a stronger economy to spur a significant jump in travel demand going forward.

"Despite mild improvements in unemployment, the housing market and greater consumer optimism, the economy is still struggling to keep its head above water," AAA said in its forecast.

The number of travelers forecast to drive, fly or hop on a train or bus this holiday is still 26 percent below the peak in 2005 and 14 percent below 2007.

Air travel is expected to decline, one sign that many households continue to feel financially pinched. AAA expects 3.14 million people to fly, down from 3.2 million a year earlier. Even with gas at a current national average of $3.44 per gallon, driving the family from New England to the Midwest to see the relatives is still cheaper than flying.

And filling up the tank will take less money than people expected when the survey was conducted in early October. That's because of a dramatic drop in gas prices. The national average has declined 35 cents per gallon in the last month. AAA expects further declines through the holiday. Still, the price of gas on Thanksgiving Day should be around last year's record of $3.32 per gallon.

Airlines for America, the main trade group for U.S. airlines expects a mild increase in flying over Thanksgiving. The group's prediction covers the 12 days starting Nov. 16. AAA defines the Thanksgiving holiday travel period as Wednesday, Nov. 21 to Sunday, Nov. 25.

Nation

Scandal widens; US general's emails 'flirtatious'

WASHINGTON (AP)—The sex scandal that felled CIA Director David Petraeus widened Tuesday to ensnare the top U.S. commander in Afghanistan, Gen. John Allen, in a suddenly public drama involving a Tampa socialite, a jealous rival, a twin sister in a messy custody dispute and flirty emails.

The improbable story—by turns tragic and silly—could have major consequences, unfolding at a critical time in the Afghan war effort and just as President Barack Obama was hoping for a smooth transition in his national security team.

Obama put a hold on the nomination of Afghan war chief Allen to become the next commander of U.S. European Command as well as the NATO supreme allied commander in Europe after investigators uncovered 20,000-plus pages of documents and emails that involved Allen and Tampa socialite Jill Kelley. Some of the material was characterized as "flirtatious."

Allen, 58, has insisted he'd done nothing wrong and worked to save his imperiled career.

Gen. Martin Dempsey, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, has recommended to Defense Secretary Leon Panetta that he keep Allen in his post as commander in Afghanistan, Dempsey's spokesman, Col. David Lapan, said Tuesday.

Dempsey called Allen from Australia, where he was to attend meetings with Panetta, Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton and their Australian counterparts. Allen told Dempsey that he had not committed any wrongdoing, Lapan said

Kelley, 37, who had worked herself into the center of the military social scene in Florida without having any official role, emerged as a central figure in the still-unfolding story that has embroiled two of the nation's most influential and respected military leaders.

AP

Jill Kelley leaves her home Tuesday, Nov. 13, 2012 in Tampa, Fla. Kelley is identified as the woman who allegedly received harassing emails from Gen. David Petraeus' paramour, Paula Broadwell.

Known as a close friend of retired Gen. Petraeus, Kelley triggered the FBI investigation that led to his downfall as CIA director when she complained about getting anonymous, harassing emails. They turned out to have been written by Petraeus' mistress, Paula Broadwell, who apparently was jealous of the attention the general paid to Kelley. Petraeus acknowledged the affair and resigned Friday.

In the course of looking into that situation, federal investigators came across what a Pentagon official called "inappropriate communications" between Allen and Kelley, both of them married.

According to one senior U.S. official, the emails between Allen and Kelley were not sexually explicit or seductive but included pet names such as "sweetheart" or "dear." The official said that while much of the communication—including some from Allen to Kelley—is relatively innocuous, some could be construed as unprofessional and would cause a reasonable person to take notice.

That official, as well as others who described the investigation, requested anonymity on grounds that they were not authorized to discuss the situation publicly.

The FBI decided to turn over the Allen information to the military once the bureau recognized it contained no evidence of a federal crime, according to a federal law enforcement official, who was not authorized to discuss the matter on the record and demanded anonymity. Adultery, however, is a crime under the Uniform Code of Military Justice.

A senior defense official said that the FBI first notified the Pentagon of the Allen matter at 4:15 p.m. EST on Sunday. The Pentagon's top lawyer, Jeh Johnson, then called Panetta's chief of staff, Jeremy Bash, about 5 p.m. as Bash and Panetta were flying to Honolulu aboard a military jet to begin a weeklong Asia trip. Bash then informed Panetta.

Allen was not suspended from his military position, even though his nomination for promotion is on hold. The White House will soon be deciding how many troops will remain in Afghanistan—and for what purposes—after the U.S.-led combat operation ends in 2014. Allen has provided his recommendations to the White House and is key to those discussions.

Still more subplots in the story emerged Tuesday with news that both Allen and Petraeus wrote letters last September on behalf of Jill Kelley's twin sister, Natalie Khawam, in a messy custody dispute. In 2011, a judge had denied Khawam custody of her 3-year-old son, saying she "appears to lack any appreciation or respect for the importance of honesty and integrity in her interactions with her family, employers and others with whom she comes in contact."

Shaping a security team, Obama's challenge deepens

WASHINGTON (AP)—Barely a week after winning re-election, President Barack Obama suddenly confronts a deepening challenge in assembling a new national security team, his task complicated by a scandal that has cost him a CIA chief and raised doubts about his Afghanistan war commander.

Hard questions from Congress, potentially bitter confirmation hearings and a scandal of infidelity and inappropriate emails are suddenly shaping the fight ahead. The White House portrayed a president focused on the economy and confident in his military and intelligence leadership, but clearly not thrilled.

When asked if the personnel troubles were an unwelcome distraction, presidential spokesman Jay Carney said: "I certainly wouldn't call it welcome."

Obama was already expecting to have to replace his chief diplomat, Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton, and perhaps his defense secretary, Leon Panetta. Those two alone—plus Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner, who is also leaving—help shape Obama's thinking and represent him before the world.

Now Obama is without his CIA director, David Petraeus, the once acclaimed military general in Iraq and Afghanistan who resigned in disgrace last week over an extramarital affair.

The details of that scandal keep expanding Tuesday, including the revelation that the top U.S. commander in Afghanistan, Gen. John Allen, is under investigation by the Pentagon for potentially inappropriate communications with another woman in the case. That, in turn, has frozen Allen's nomination to be the next commander of U.S. European Command and the commander of NATO forces in Europe, which casts more doubt about a military leadership in which each move affects another.

"It's a hard moment for the administration," said Joshua Rovner, an associate professor of strategy and policy at the U.S. Naval War College in Rhode Island. "It certainly wasn't expected, but if anything good comes out of it, they do have a chance to take a long, hard look at strategy."

He noted that Petraeus had taken on such revered status for his military career that he won confirmation as CIA chief with little scrutiny.

Even beyond the surprise difficulties, Obama could have trouble with the rest of his high-stakes turnover.

When Clinton leaves, a favorite to replace her is Susan Rice, an Obama loyalist who serves as U.S. ambassador to the United Nations. She could face a bruising confirmation hearing given that she was the first face of the administration's maligned explanation of the fatal attack on the U.S. consulate in Benghazi, Libya.

"She's clearly going to have a little more difficult time than she would have if she hadn't gone out on all those talk shows," said Sen. Jon Kyl, R-Ariz., the second-ranking Senate Republican. Kyl is retiring at year's end and likely would not get a vote on Rice, but he said: "As of right now, I wouldn't support her."

Grandmother, uncle plot murder-suicide, 3 kids die

TOLEDO, Ohio (AP)—Caught up in a family disagreement over who should care for three young children, a grandmother and her son barricaded themselves and the kids in a garage and filled it with deadly carbon monoxide gas. All five died.

Police spent Tuesday trying to explain the heartbreaking scene discovered a day earlier at the home of 54-year-old Sandy Ford and her son Andy in a quiet Toledo neighborhood.

Firefighters using a sledgehammer broke down the garage door to find the bodies of 5-year-old Madalyn Hayes, her 6-year-old brother, Logan, and 10-year-old sister, Paige, slumped inside a car, along with their grandmother and uncle. Two hoses attached to the exhaust of a pickup truck pumped gas fumes through the car's rear window.

Police said letters inside the house indicated the woman and her son plotted the murder-suicide, beginning by picking up the children from school Monday morning after their mother had dropped them off earlier.

They also had disabled the garage door opener and nailed plywood over the windows, said Toledo police Sgt. Joe Heffernan. He wouldn't say what was in the letters, but it appeared some were written by the children.

"We're trying to figure out all the why's in this," he said.

Authorities were called to the home by the children's frantic grandfather after he discovered the letters and was unable to force open the garage door. Despite the grisly scene, investigators found no signs the children were forced into the car and believe all five died of carbon monoxide poisoning.

Until last week, the children had spent the last three years living with their grandparents, Sandy and Randy Ford, and their uncle at the house in a residential neighborhood close to the Michigan state line.

Asia

US quickly going through commanders in Afghan war

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—At the international military headquarters in Kabul, it's jokingly being called the curse of the commander's job.

The last four U.S. generals to run the Afghan war were either forced to resign or saw their careers tainted by allegations of wrongdoing.

The first, Gen. David McKiernan, was ousted on May 11, 2009, a year before his term as commander was set to end. Then-Defense Secretary Robert Gates wanted McKiernan's resignation as newly elected President Barack Obama launched a counterinsurgency strategy of working to undermine the Taliban's pull on the population.

It was the first presidential dismissal of a wartime general since President Harry Truman ousted Gen. Douglas MacArthur during the Korean War.

Obama replaced McKiernan with Gen. Stanley A. McChrystal, who had a background in special operations and came in with a mandate to remake the war effort with the help of "surge" troops. But he lasted only 13 months.

In June 2010, Rolling Stone published an article that quoted scathing remarks McChrystal and his aides made about their civilian bosses, including Vice President Joseph Biden, as fools who were ignorant of the complexities of war. Obama called McChrystal back to Washington to explain and forced him to resign.

Gen. David Petraeus took over the Afghan command in July 2010 to fill the void left by McChrystal's abrupt departure and agreed to serve for one year. He completed that term and then retired from the military to become CIA director in September 2011.

Petraeus resigned as CIA director on Nov. 9 after he had an extramarital affair with his biographer. The affair came out as part of an FBI investigation into suspicious emails between the biographer and another woman.

The current chief, Gen. John Allen, was appointed by Obama to oversee the drawdown of U.S. and international forces ahead of the planned transfer of security responsibility to the Afghan government in 2014.

Pentagon officials said Tuesday that Allen, 58, is under investigation for thousands of alleged "inappropriate communications" with the second woman involved in the Petraeus case, a Florida socialite. Allen's nomination to become the next commander of U.S. European Command and the commander of NATO forces in Europe has now been put on hold.

Expecting Allen to be confirmed for his new post, Obama had already chosen Gen. Joseph Dunford succeed him. If confirmed, Dunford would be the 15th top commander there since 2002, a revolving door of generals that some analysts say is detrimental to the war effort.

"Rotating top commanders on an annual basis makes no management sense," Thomas E. Ricks, a senior fellow at the Center for a New American Security, wrote in an opinion piece published Sunday in The New York Times. "Imagine trying to run a corporation by swapping the senior executives every year. Or imagine if, at the beginning of 1944, six months before D-Day, Gen. George C. Marshall, the Army chief of staff, told Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower, the supreme allied commander, that it was time to give someone else a chance to lead."

AP

This combination of file photos from 2008-2012 shows, top row from left, Gens. David McKiernan, Stanley A. McChrystal, bottom row from left, David Petraeus and John Allen in Afghanistan. The four U.S. generals led U.S. and NATO forces in Afghanistan since 2008.

The curse of commanding the Afghan war

A look at what went wrong for the four U.S. generals who have led U.S. and NATO forces in Afghanistan since 2008:

Gen. David McKiernan, June 2008 to June 2009

■ Defense Secretary Robert Gates asked for McKiernan's resignation a year before his term as commander was set to end. The firing was seen as a rejection by newly elected President Barack Obama of McKiernan's conventional warfare approach in favor of the more targeted "counterinsurgency" strategy of working to undermine insurgents' pull on the population.

Gen. Stanley A. McChrystal, June 2009 to June 2010

■ McChrystal, who had a background in special operations, came in with a mandate to remake the war effort with the help of "surge" troops ordered by Obama. A year into that push, an article in Rolling Stone magazine quoted members of McChrystal's team making disparaging comments about their commander in chief and other senior administration officials. Obama called McChrystal back to Washington to explain and forced him to resign.

Gen. David Petraeus, July 2010 to July 2011

■ Petraeus took over the Afghan command to fill the void left by McChrystal's abrupt departure and agreed to serve for one year. He completed that term and then retired from the military to become CIA director in September 2011. Petraeus resigned as CIA director on Nov. 9 after he had an extramarital affair with his biographer. The affair came out as part of an FBI investigation into suspicious emails between the biographer and another woman.

Gen. John Allen, July 2011 to present

■ Allen was appointed by Obama to oversee the drawdown of U.S. and international forces ahead of the planned transfer of security responsibility to the Afghan government in 2014. Pentagon officials said early Tuesday that Allen is under investigation for thousands of alleged "inappropriate communications" with the second woman involved in the Petraeus case, a Florida socialite. Allen's nomination to become the next commander of U.S. European Command and the commander of NATO forces in Europe has now been put on hold. ***(AP)***

ASIAN BRIEFS

Red Cross says death toll in Myanmar quake hits 26

YANGON, Myanmar (AP)—The Red Cross says the death toll has risen to 26 from an earthquake that damaged homes and ancient Buddhist pagodas in northern Myanmar. The Red Cross said in a statement Tuesday that another 231 people were hurt in Sunday's magnitude-6.8 quake in the underdeveloped mining region. Myanmar has a poor official disaster response system and lost upward of 140,000 people to a devastating cyclone in 2008. The Red Cross says it provided aid to some families and is still assessing needs but that no external assistance will likely be needed.

Obama urged to denounce rights abuses in Cambodia

BANGKOK (AP)—A human rights group is urging President Barack Obama to address abuses in Cambodia during a visit this month to the Southeast Asian country, the first by a U.S. president. New York-based Human Rights Watch said in a report Tuesday that more than 300 people have been killed in politically motivated attacks in the past two decades under the rule of Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen. The report suggested senior Cambodian government officials and security forces have been involved in a series of serious rights abuses since Cambodia signed peace agreements in 1991 to pave the way for democracy.

WWII bomb removed from airport in Japan

TOKYO (AP)—A military squad has safely removed a 250-kilogram (550 pound) World War II bomb found two weeks ago near the runway of a major airport in northern Japan. The team defused the rusty bomb Wednesday and then transported it away from Sendai Airport. More than 30 flights were canceled while they worked. Sendai Airport was heavily damaged by last year's tsunami and the bomb was uncovered in construction related to its restoration. The airport was immediately closed, but troops piled hundreds of sandbags around the bomb so that flights could resume the next day.

China's Hu clears way for Xi to take party helm

BEIJING (AP)—President Hu Jintao has stepped aside as Communist Party leader to clear the way for Vice President Xi Jinping to take the helm in China, delegates to the party's national congress said Wednesday.

Hu was not re-elected a member of the party's Central Committee on the final day of the gathering, showing that he's no longer in the leadership, said two delegates, speaking on condition of anonymity because the official list of members had not yet been released.

Xi was re-elected along with other leading candidates for seats on the party's all-powerful Politburo Standing Committee.

Designated as successor five years ago, Xi will take over as party general secretary from Hu on Thursday and as president next spring, in China's second orderly transfer of power since the 1949 communist revolution. Li Keqiang also is due to take over from Wen Jiabao as premier.

The new leaders will face slowing growth, rising unrest among increasing assertive citizens and delicate relations with neighboring countries.

The party's 2,200-plus delegates who gathered at Beijing's Great Hall of the People for the secretive, weeklong meeting also rubber-stamped the report Hu delivered last week committing the party to continuing a pro-economic growth agenda while retaining firm political control. Hu urged stronger measures to rein in corruption and make the government more responsive to public demands, but offered little in the way of specifics.

The next lineup of China's most powerful body, the Politburo Standing Committee, will be announced on Thursday. Though congress and Central Committee delegates have some influence over leadership decisions, most of the lineup is decided among a core group of the most powerful party members and elders.

Wang Qishan, a frontrunner along with Xi and Li for the Standing Committee, was named to the party's disciplinary body in a sign he would likely be named to the party's top body.

World

New opposition head gives renewed hope to Syrians

BEIRUT (AP)—Syria's political opposition has struggled to prove its relevance amid the civil war under a leadership largely made up of academics and exiled politicians. With its relaunch as a new organization, it has taken a different tack: choosing as its head a popular Muslim cleric who preaches sectarian unity and can fire up a crowd.

The selection of a moderate religious figure, Mouaz al-Khatib, to head the Syrian National Coalition for Opposition and Revolutionary Forces is also an attempt to counter the growing influence of Islamic extremists in the rebellion against President Bashar Assad.

While lacking in political experience, the 52-year-old preacher-turned-activist is described by Syrians as a man of the people—a modest, unifying figure who commands wide respect among the country's various opposition groups and rebels.

A Sunni Muslim former preacher at Damascus' historic Ummayad Mosque, al-Khatib warned against the militarization of the Syrian uprising and the pitfalls of sectarianism very early in the conflict.

"My brothers, we lived all our lives, Sunnis, Shiites, Alawites and Druse as a one- hearted community, and with us lived our dear brothers who follow Jesus peace be upon him," he told a crowd of supporters in a Damascus suburb in April 2011, only one month into the uprising.

"We should adhere to this bond between us and protect it at all times," he added, drawing in excited cries of "One, one, one! The Syrian people are one!"

Twenty months into the conflict—as Syria sinks deeper in a civil war with increasingly deadly sectarian overtones—it is this message of unity and moderation that many inside and outside the country are hoping the new leaders can help convey.

Under intense international pressure to form an opposition that includes representatives from the country's disparate factions fighting to topple Assad, the anti-government groups struck a deal Sunday to form the coalition headed by al-Khatib.

The coalition includes representatives from the main opposition group, the Syrian National Council, which was harshly criticized by many, including U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton, for being cut off from rebels fighting the war on the ground and for failing to forge a cohesive and more representative leadership.

The SNC itself elected a new head on Saturday—George Sabra, a Christian dissident who was repeatedly imprisoned by the Assad regime. His group holds 22 of the 60 seats in the coalition.

The opposition has been deeply divided for months despite the relentless bloodshed and repeated calls from Western and Arab supporters to create a cohesive and representative leadership that could present a single conduit for foreign aid.

AP

In this Sunday, Nov. 11, 2012 file photo, Syrian opposition figure and prominent Syrian human rights activist Haytham al-Maleh, left, congratulates Muslim cleric Mouaz al-Khatib after he was elected president of the newly formed Syrian National Coalition for Opposition and Revolutionary Forces, in Doha, Qatar.

France recognizes new Syria group, 1st in West

BEIRUT (AP)—France on Tuesday became the first Western country to formally recognize Syria's newly formed opposition coalition as the sole legitimate representative of the Syrian people.

The U.S. also recognized the leadership body announced in Qatar on Sunday as a legitimate representative, but stopped short of describing it as a sole representative, saying the group must first demonstrate its ability to represent Syrians inside the country.

"We look forward to supporting the national coalition as it charts a course for the end of Assad's bloody rule, and marks the start, we believe, of a peaceful just and democratic future for the people of Syria," said U.S. State Department spokesman Mark Toner in Washington.

Under intense international pressure to form an opposition that includes representatives from the country's disparate factions fighting to topple President Bashar Assad, the anti-government groups struck a deal Sunday in Doha, Qatar, to form a coalition headed by former Muslim preacher Mouaz al-Khatib.

The coalition includes representatives from the main opposition group, the Syrian National Council, which was harshly criticized by many, including U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton, for being cut off from rebels fighting the war on the ground and for failing to forge a cohesive and more representative leadership.

The new group is lobbying the international community for more powerful weapons to break the stalemate with the regime. The U.S. and French recognition is a welcome boost, but the opposition still has a long way to go to convince the international community the weapons will not fall in the wrong hands.

"We now have a structure in place that can prepare for a political transition, but we're looking for it to still establish the types of technical committees that will allow us to make sure our assistance gets to the right places, both non-lethal and humanitarian," Toner told reporters in Washington.

The French move was announced by French President Francois Hollande, who used his first news conference since taking office six months ago to formally recognize the group.

Fall rains bring havoc to Haiti

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP)—The rain has tapered off and floodwaters no longer claw at houses, but the situation across much of Haiti remained grim on Tuesday following an autumn of punishing rains that have killed scores of people and that threaten to cause even more hunger across the impoverished nation.

In places such as Croix-des-Missions, on the northeastern edge of the Haitian capital, the walls of dozens of homes along a pale brown river have been broken or ripped away, exposing clothes, bedding and everything else to the repeated downpours.

Heavy rains began falling in southern Haiti even before Hurricane Sandy passed just west of the country's southern peninsula the night of Oct. 24, dropping more than 20 inches of rain within a 24-hour period.

"It took away my whole home. Now I don't have anything," said Solange Calixte, a 56-year-old mother of two whose home in Croix-des-Missions was largely destroyed by floodwaters of the nearby Gray River.

One of 21,000 people the U.N. says were left homeless by Sandy, Calixte was forced to move with her belongings beneath a tarp at a neighbor's home.

And the rains have kept coming. Another front soaked much of the north late last week, causing more flooding and leaving at least a dozen dead.

So far the back-to-back storms have killed up to 66 people and the crisis is likely to worsen in coming months. Humanitarian workers anticipate a food shortage brought on by the massive flooding that destroyed yam and corn fields.

The United Nations says that as much as 90 percent of Haiti's current harvest season, much of it in the south, was lost in Sandy's floods, and the next harvest season won't begin until March. The World Food Program estimates that more than 1.5 million people are now at risk of malnutrition because they were either displaced or lost crops, forcing Haitians to rely heavily on more-expensive imports.

WORLD BRIEFS

Hundreds flee area of Kenya where police died

NAIROBI, Kenya (AP)—Hundreds of people fearing a government backlash over the killing of at least 32 police officers are fleeing their homes in northwestern Kenya as the military prepares to help police pursue the bandits who carried out the attack, officials said Tuesday. Police Commissioner Mathew Iteere said a "serious" operation has begun to find those responsible for the deaths of the officers over the weekend. "We cannot allow such things to happen. I think they were testing the waters and in due cause they will know the depth of the river," he said. The National Security Council chaired by President Mwai Kibaki said the military will provide support to Kenya Police Service in apprehending the bandits and recovering stolen animals and arms in Samburu county.

France's president defends tortoise style

PARIS (AP)—France's president just can't seem to win. Six months after sweeping to power on an anti-austerity wave, polls say Socialist President Francois Hollande is increasingly disliked. Leftists are disappointed he's not spending more state money to create jobs. Critics on the right say he's raising too many taxes. Hollande defended his presidency and answered critics Tuesday with what's becoming his signature message: "Recovery takes time." Fixing a zero-growth economy and 10 percent unemployment doesn't happen overnight, he said at the first big news conference of his term. Hollande staked out bolder ground on foreign policy. He defended Greece and minimized differences with Germany over fixing Europe's economy.

Ex-Dominican president defends record amid unrest

SANTO DOMINGO, Dominican Republic (AP)—The Dominican Republic's previous president is defending his record amid intense public anger over plans to raise taxes to help close a budget deficit incurred under his government. Former President Leonel Fernandez insisted in a nationally televised speech Tuesday night that there was nothing fraudulent about the Caribbean country's $4.6 billion deficit. Fernandez left office in August and says the deficit largely stems from shortfalls in government revenue as well as public works projects that were approved by lawmakers. He also defends his successor's plan to close the gap with increases in the sales, property and fuel taxes.

Focus

By CASSANDRA VINOGRAD
ASSOCIATED PRESS

AP

A general view of the BBC headquarters in London, Sunday, Nov, 11, 2012. The head of the BBC's governing body said Sunday the broadcaster needs a radical overhaul following the resignation of its chief executive in wake of a scandal over a botched report on child sex-abuse allegations. Chris Patten vowed to restore confidence and trust in the BBC, which is reeling from the resignation of George Entwistle and the scandals prompting his ouster. Entwistle resigned Saturday night amid a storm of controversy after a news program wrongly implicated a British politician in a child sex-abuse scandal, deepening a crisis sparked by revelations it decided not to air similar allegations against one of its own stars.

BBC under pressure to restore trust after scandal

LONDON (AP)—The bungling of reports that powerful Britons sexually abused children has thrown one of the largest and most respected broadcasters in the world into a deep crisis.

It is hard to overstate the importance of the BBC in British society; its influence stretches throughout the former British empire and beyond. Over the years, the BBC has been behind almost all of the U.K.'s broadcast milestones, serving as a voice for the British nation. Its airwaves have carried the clanging of Big Ben's bells, wartime messages from Winston Churchill, and the music of the Beatles—exporting British culture to a global audience.

The head of the BBC's governing body called Sunday for an overhaul of the broadcaster. That could mean many things for the sprawling organization that has long emphasized its obligations to the public. To know what it would take, it is important to know what the BBC is and the scale of the crisis it faces.

WHAT HAPPENED

Last month, the BBC drew fire after it emerged its "Newsnight" program had shelved an investigation into child sexual abuse allegations against Jimmy Savile, the broadcaster's renowned TV host who died last year.

Police say that since their investigation started they have received complaints from some 300 victims of the platinum-haired, tracksuit-wearing Savile and associates—and that some of the abuse may have occurred on BBC premises. Questions soon arose over whether shelving the "Newsnight" piece was part of a cover-up or if BBC managers had heard of but ignored claims of abuse by Savile while he was hosting such shows as "Top of the Pops."

Amid public outrage, BBC director general George Entwistle announced internal inquiries into why the "Newsnight" investigation was canned as well as the BBC's "culture and practices" during the years Savile worked there.

But then, "Newsnight" wrongly implicated a British politician in a sex-abuse claims program that aired Nov. 2.

The BBC didn't name the alleged abuser, but online rumors focused on Alistair McAlpine, a Conservative Party member. On Friday, McAlpine issued a fierce denial, and shortly after, the abuse victim interviewed by "Newsnight" admitted he had mistakenly identified his abuser.

The BBC apologized for airing the program, which Entwistle said he had not been made aware of. That stance drew incredulity from politicians and media watchers wondering if he was out of touch or inept. The criticism reached fever pitch, and Entwistle decided to resign Saturday. A day later, Chris Patten, the head of the BBC's governing body, called for a "thorough, radical structural overhaul" of the broadcaster.

THE BBC'S EVOLUTION

Some observers say the BBC's massive size and rapid growth have resulted in a decentralized structure without clear lines of responsibility, leaving the door open for shoddy journalism. But while today the BBC is a global brand, it started out with a simple mission in November 1922: to inform, educate and entertain.

It took on a crucial role in public life with the onset of World War II, when the service brought Churchill's famous speeches to the airwaves. The BBC expanded its overseas language services, and its radio programs became a lifeline of information—including even for Nazi leader Adolf Hitler's own command, according to the broadcaster.

Television took on a greater role within the organization after the war, hitting a milestone when 20 million viewers tuned in for Queen Elizabeth II's coronation in 1953. The BBC expanded its offerings, launching current affairs program "Panorama"—still a hit today—and the first British soap opera.

The media behemoth's solid news foundation showed in the 1980s with its coverage of the Falklands War, the first Live Aid concert and the royal wedding of Prince Charles and Diana, which drew one of the largest TV audiences ever.

In more recent years, the BBC has greatly expanded its digital broadcasting and Internet services.

HOW BIG IS IT?

Today, the organization says it reaches a weekly audience of 166 million people globally over multiple platforms, including radio, digital satellite and cable channels.

The BBC boasts 10 national TV channels in addition to regional U.K. programming, 10 national radio stations, 40 local radio stations and a website which averages 3.6 billion hits a month.

The BBC World Service broadcasts globally on radio, TV and online, providing news and information in almost 30 languages. The broader organization, meanwhile, cranks out TV gold such as science fiction series "Doctor Who" and long-running soap "EastEnders."

Its commercial arm, BBC World News, broadcasts 24 hours a day in more than 200 countries and territories.

HOW DOES IT DO IT—AND AT WHAT COST?

Most of the BBC's services in the U.K. are funded by a tax on households that have televisions or watch TV on computers or other devices, while profits from commercial ventures such as BBC Worldwide and BBC World News are used to invest in new programming and services.

> *It is hard to overstate the importance of the BBC in British society; its influence stretches throughout the former British empire and beyond.*

Still, rival broadcasters in the past have complained that the BBC has used public money to fund types of programs supplied by commercial operators, ditching its public service mission in a quest for viewers.

Under pressure from critics to justify its 3.5 billion pound ($5.6 billion) budget in a time of austerity, the BBC in recent years has undergone a series of job cuts, cuts to operations and unpopular changes to employee pension programs.

Most of those changes were ushered in by Mark Thompson, who preceded Entwistle as BBC director general. Thompson is to assume the role of chief executive of The New York Times Co. on Monday, but faces questions over the BBC's decision to kill the "Newsnight" program on Savile—which occurred while he was still in charge.

PAST BBC CHALLENGES

The BBC has repeatedly faced off against the government over editorial independence.

Its first major confrontation was during the 1926 general strike, when Churchill unsuccessfully lobbied the prime minister to commandeer the airwaves because the strike limited the modes of communication between the government and the public.

The BBC later came under pressure to support a campaign in the Falklands in 1982, enraging the Margaret Thatcher government by casting doubt on official sources. The BBC's director general at the time insisted it needed to "guard its reputation for telling the truth."

In 2003, a BBC reporter suggested that then-Prime Minister Tony Blair had misled parliament with claims that Iraq had weapons of mass destruction. The government called for an apology, but the BBC refused. The BBC's source, weapons expert David Kelly, was named in the media and had to explain himself repeatedly. He later killed himself.

The inquiry into Kelly's death said the reporter had made "unfounded allegations" and called the broadcaster's editorial processes defective. The inquiry's findings led to the resignations of the BBC's chairman Gavyn Davies and its director-general, Greg Dyke—and the installation of Thompson as successor.

WHAT'S NEXT?

The broadcaster's charter sets out that "trust is at the foundation of the BBC: we are independent, impartial and honest." But public trust in the BBC has been declining for decades, according to polls, and the latest scandals are unlikely to help.

Entwistle may have quit, but observers say the BBC Trust, which ensures the broadcaster stays true to its public obligations, deserves scrutiny, too. Patten is expected on Monday to lay out plans for how to deal with the aftermath, and many expect more BBC resignations as the fallout spreads.

Kevin Marsh, a former senior BBC editor, says the broadcaster needs to get better at explaining itself and admitting its errors. Even if it never fully recovers, the BBC can probably "learn to live with" a new reality of weaker public confidence, he added.

Tim Davies, a former PepsiCo executive with a marketing background and no experience as a journalist, has been named acting director general. While BBC insiders might regard Davies with suspicion, "He doesn't have BBC blood flowing through his veins, and quite honestly at the moment that could be an advantage," Marsh said.

Environment

UOG Green to celebrate America Recycles Day

MANGILAO, Guam—Today, Nov. 15, from 9am to 12pm, UOG Green and the University of Guam's Center for Island Sustainability will celebrate America Recycles Day on the UOG campus.

As the place "where America's day begins," Guam will be the first to celebrate the nation's day dedicated to recycling awareness and action. UOG Green and CIS will be hosting a fun day full of activities and information on "going green" and recycling.

Being a small island, Guam faces some great difficulties with its trash production and recycling efforts. UOG Green and CIS want to spread the word about the benefits of recycling and how it can help Guam as well as the rest of the world.

"We want to be sure that our community is fully educated on the topic and on board with recycling since we are one of the main education hubs on island," says UOG sustainability coordinator Elvie Tyler. "It is never too late to learn about sustainability and how to go green."

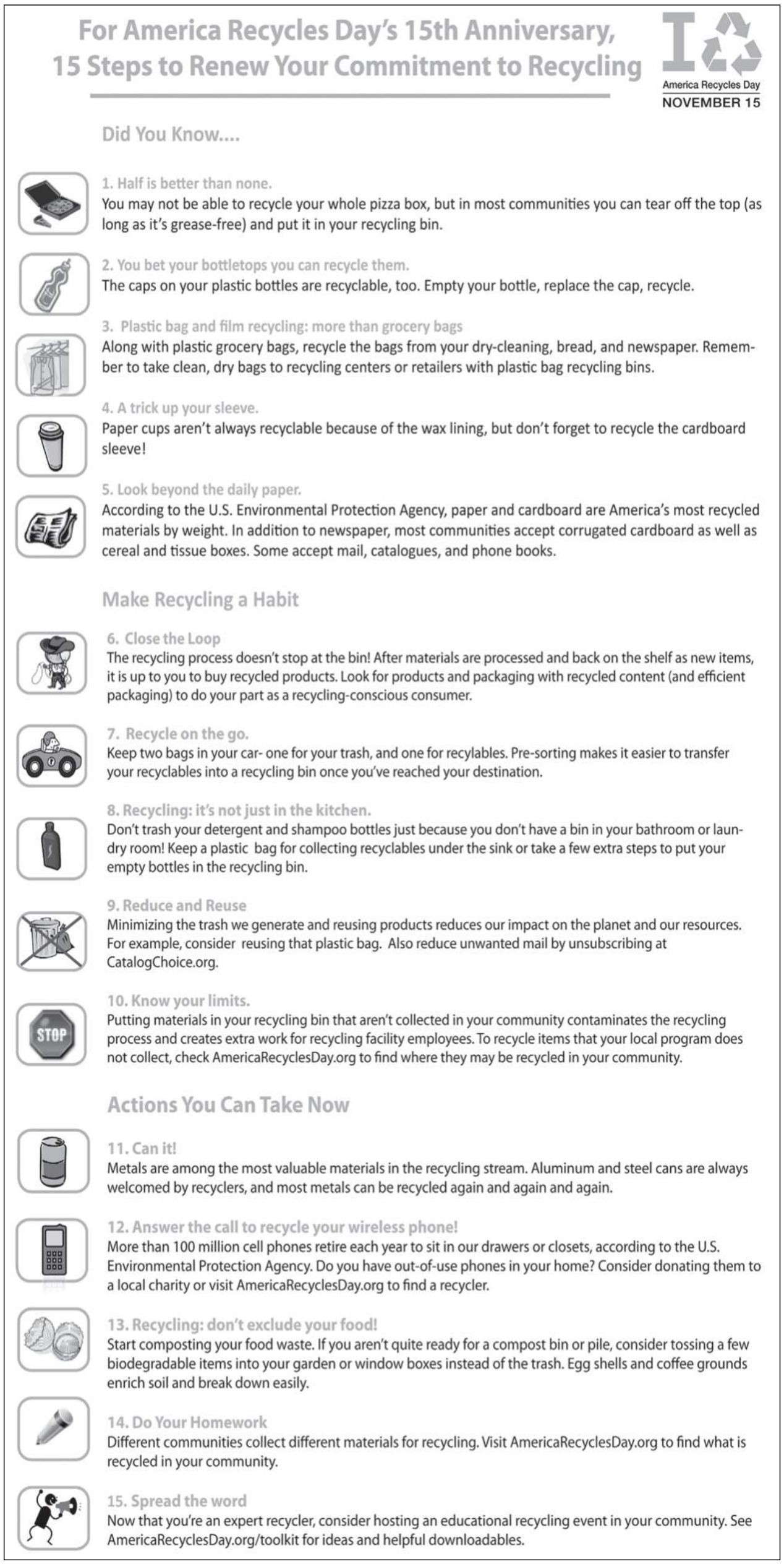
The event will be held in the courtyard between the School of Business and Public Administration building and the RFK Library on the University of Guam Campus today, Nov. 15, from 9am to 12pm. There will be games, prizes, a photo booth, and a chance to take a recycling pledge to help put Guam on the recycling map! The public is welcome to attend and participate.

Recycling is something we can all agree on. Recycling conserves our island's natural resources, saves landfill space, conserves energy, and reduces water pollution, air pollution and the green house gas emissions that cause global warming.

If Magellan had left a bottle in Umatac when he visited 491 years ago, it would still be here. Most plastics take 500 to 1,000 years to break down. But instead of breaking them down, we can recycle plastics easily and make them into new bottles.

Guam brings in more than 79 million aluminum cans every year according to the iRecycle program. Every year we can recycle more than 79 million cans!

America Recycles Day is the only nationally recognized day and community-driven awareness event dedicated to promoting and celebrating recycling in the U.S. Since 1997, communities across the country have participated in America Recycles Day on Nov. 15 to promote recycling awareness, commitment, and action. ***(UOG)***


For America Recycles Day's 15th Anniversary,
15 Steps to Renew Your Commitment to Recycling
America Recycles Day
NOVEMBER 15
Did You Know....
1. Half is better than none.
You may not be able to recycle your whole pizza box, but in most communities you can tear off the top (as long as it's grease-free) and put it in your recycling bin.
2. You bet your bottletops you can recycle them.
The caps on your plastic bottles are recyclable, too. Empty your bottle, replace the cap, recycle.
3. Plastic bag and film recycling: more than grocery bags
Along with plastic grocery bags, recycle the bags from your dry-cleaning, bread, and newspaper. Remember to take clean, dry bags to recycling centers or retailers with plastic bag recycling bins.
4. A trick up your sleeve.
Paper cups aren't always recyclable because of the wax lining, but don't forget to recycle the cardboard sleeve!
5. Look beyond the daily paper.
According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, paper and cardboard are America's most recycled materials by weight. In addition to newspaper, most communities accept corrugated cardboard as well as cereal and tissue boxes. Some accept mail, catalogues, and phone books.
Make Recycling a Habit
6. Close the Loop
The recycling process doesn't stop at the bin! After materials are processed and back on the shelf as new items, it is up to you to buy recycled products. Look for products and packaging with recycled content (and efficient packaging) to do your part as a recycling-conscious consumer.
7. Recycle on the go.
Keep two bags in your car- one for your trash, and one for recylables. Pre-sorting makes it easier to transfer your recyclables into a recycling bin once you've reached your destination.
8. Recycling: it's not just in the kitchen.
Don't trash your detergent and shampoo bottles just because you don't have a bin in your bathroom or laundry room! Keep a plastic bag for collecting recyclables under the sink or take a few extra steps to put your empty bottles in the recycling bin.
9. Reduce and Reuse
Minimizing the trash we generate and reusing products reduces our impact on the planet and our resources. For example, consider reusing that plastic bag. Also reduce unwanted mail by unsubscribing at CatalogChoice.org.
10. Know your limits.
Putting materials in your recycling bin that aren't collected in your community contaminates the recycling process and creates extra work for recycling facility employees. To recycle items that your local program does not collect, check AmericaRecyclesDay.org to find where they may be recycled in your community.
Actions You Can Take Now
11. Can it!
Metals are among the most valuable materials in the recycling stream. Aluminum and steel cans are always welcomed by recyclers, and most metals can be recycled again and again and again.
12. Answer the call to recycle your wireless phone!
More than 100 million cell phones retire each year to sit in our drawers or closets, according to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Do you have out-of-use phones in your home? Consider donating them to a local charity or visit AmericaRecyclesDay.org to find a recycler.
13. Recycling: don't exclude your food!
Start composting your food waste. If you aren't quite ready for a compost bin or pile, consider tossing a few biodegradable items into your garden or window boxes instead of the trash. Egg shells and coffee grounds enrich soil and break down easily.
14. Do Your Homework
Different communities collect different materials for recycling. Visit AmericaRecyclesDay.org to find what is recycled in your community.
15. Spread the word
Now that you're an expert recycler, consider hosting an educational recycling event in your community. See AmericaRecyclesDay.org/toolkit for ideas and helpful downloadables.

DO YOUR PART

How women really make a difference

By TERRI BENNETT
MCT INFORMATION SERVICES

We have heard a lot in recent weeks about the power of women. We've heard how we've impacted the presidential election and many close statewide races. But today, I'm not talking about the power of women politically. I want to talk about the power of women when it comes to creating healthier homes, demanding safer products, and ultimately creating a more sustainable lifestyle for our families. Do Your Part and realize the big impact you have—today.

Women do most of the shopping and that gives us enormous buying power. We control the purse strings. Whether it's groceries or cleaning products or clothes, even big-ticket items such as appliances and furniture, women make decisions for roughly 85 cents of every dollar spent for the home. That is spending power and it has a big influence on what ends up on store shelves. We need to use that power to support products that won't pollute our bodies, our children, our homes, or the environment. When you make a purchase, here are a few things to consider:

Is it really safe? If a product is on the shelf, it must be safe to buy, right? After all, we have the FDA and the EPA to protect us. The government looks after these things, doesn't it? This is a huge misconception. Chemical and personal care products are not regulated. No one oversees chemical manufacturing. We've given the chemical companies all the power to claim a product is safe and it has been demonstrated more than once that this is a dangerous assumption. Not all corporations use their power responsibly. Go to DoYourPart.com/Columns for more help determining what's really in the products you buy.

Where does this product come from? Products coming into this country arrive with a lot of unknowns. In the case of food, for example, has the product been genetically modified? What kinds of chemicals were used in the growing process? Has it been irradiated? What are the trade practices? If you purchase products that originated outside of America, make sure you know exactly what your dollars are supporting. When given the choice, choose products that are made in America. They help protect and create jobs and are generally safer.

Will it recycle? When you shop, keep your recycling habits in mind. Choose products made from recycled materials or from materials that you can recycle—ideally both. Choosing items with the least amount of packaging will also help you do your part to generate less waste.

How we spend our dollars tells manufacturers that we either support what they are doing, or that we don't. When we choose to buy more eco-friendly items we are making a statement and manufacturers listen. That's one powerful way to Do Your Part each time you go shopping.

Terri Bennett is a veteran TV meteorologist, eco-expert and author of Do Your Part, *a practical guide for everyday green living available at DoYourPart.com. Send questions to terri@doyourpart.com.*

Life & Style

50 and counting for Rolling Stones

By DAVID BAUDER
AP ENTERTAINMENT WRITER

NEW YORK (AP)—The official line is "we'll see." But the Rolling Stones seem in such fighting trim, clear-eyed and focused, that it's hard to believe there's not more cooking beyond the current flurry of activity surrounding the band's 50th anniversary.

The archetypal rock 'n' roll band is booked for five concerts in London and the New York area over the next month, the last one a Pay Per View event. The Stones on Tuesday released yet another hits compilation with two new songs and HBO is premiering a documentary on their formative years, "Crossfire Hurricane," on Thursday.

"Without saying yes or nay," Keith Richards said in an interview this week, "once this starts rolling, I can't see it stopping. The band feels good about themselves, they still feel they've got something to offer. Obviously there are a lot of people out there who agree. We'll go along with it."

Fifty years is hard to fathom ("It's impossible," Keith cackles. "I'm only 38."). The Rolling Stones have been through death, defections and addictions, through classic discs like "Exile on Main Street" and "Some Girls" and forgettable ones, and are still operating with Richards, Mick Jagger and Charlie Watts. Ron Wood, the new guy, joined in 1975.

AP

This Oct. 18, 2012 file photo shows, from left, Charlie Watts, Bill Wyman, Keith Richards, Ronnie Wood and Mick Jagger of The Rolling Stones at London Film Festival American Express Gala for their film, "The Rolling Stones - Crossfire Hurricane" at Odeon West End in London.

"I thought it would be kind of churlish not to do something," Jagger said. "Otherwise, the BBC would have done a rather dull film about the Rolling Stones."

Fifty days was a better yardstick when Watts first set up his drum kit. "It was quite normal for a band to last a month," he said.

The Stones formed in London in 1962 to play Chicago blues, led at the time by the late Brian Jones and pianist Ian Stewart, with boyhood friends Jagger and Richards. Bassist Bill Wyman and Watts were quick additions.

Anniversaries usually aren't big on the band's agenda, but Richards said the Rolling Stones felt external pressure to mark this one.

"This band is famous for not obeying the rules and bowing to pressure or anything," Richards said. "But over the course of the year we felt more and more aware that there are folks out there counting on us. You can't let them down. At the same time, you realize that the folks are right. Playing together over the last five months you realize that there's this thing out of your life that's been missing."

They spent several weeks in Paris rehearsing five hours a day for their concerts, including two dress rehearsals before audiences in a club and theater. To mark the occasion, the band has dug back into its catalogue for songs like "I Wanna Be Your Man" and "The Last Time," although Richards held the line at resurrecting their first single, the Chuck Berry cover "Come On."

Jagger didn't want the band to take on too much, "but I thought it was important to do some sort of a show, even if it was just a club gig," he said. "I didn't want it to be too nostalgic and I wanted to be pretty irreverent about it. My idea of the tour is calling it 'F--- Off, We're 50.'"

Few people in the concert industry expect the Stones to mount one of the huge world tours that they have done in the past, given ages that range from Wood's 65 to Watts' 71, said Gary Bongiovanni, editor and publisher of the trade publication Pollstar. More live shows wouldn't be a surprise, however, perhaps as residencies in a number of large cities, he said.

The band's periodic sabbaticals sometimes stretch so long that Rolling Stones fans can't help but wonder whether it's all over now. The most recent time out lasted five years. If anyone threatened to make it permanent it was Richards, always the most protective and romantic about the band, because of his best-selling autobiography that took some shots at his songwriting partner Jagger. Richards dismissed the idea that it created a barrier.

Gorbachev issues new book, laments illnesses

MOSCOW (AP)—Mikhail Gorbachev says he's feeling the effects of old age, but aims to stay active as long as he can.

Speaking Tuesday at a presentation of his new book, the 81-year-old former Soviet leader said: "In the last few years I've begun to ail, and seriously. In the last five years I've had four operations."

"But I really will continue to work as long as I have the strength," he said, according to the Interfax news agency.

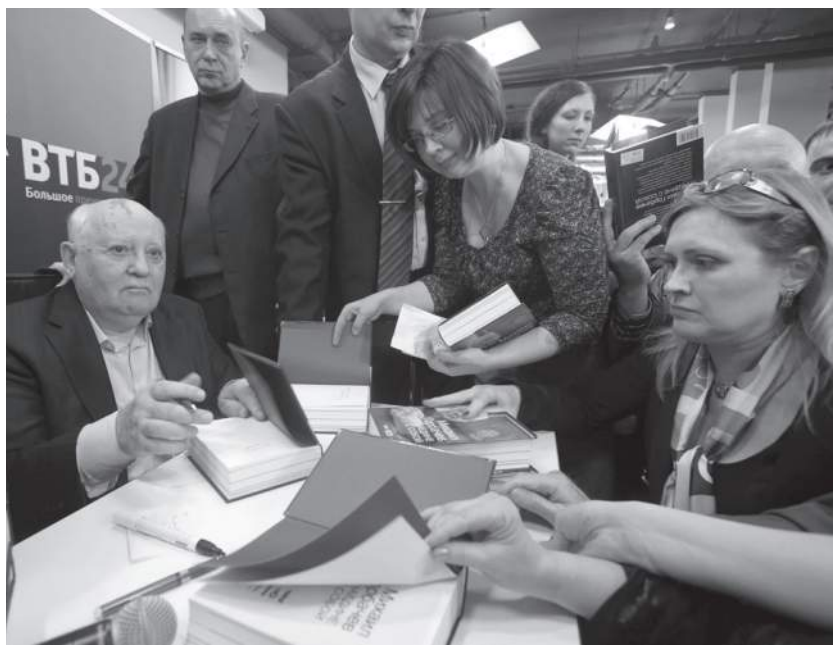
The book, titled "Alone With Myself," chronicles Gorbachev's life from his childhood to the 1991 demise of the Soviet Union. The book, dedicated to his late wife Raisa, is full of previously undisclosed personal details, including the story of their romance.

Raisa Gorbachev died in 1999 of leukemia.

In the book, Gorbachev describes how they first saw each other at a dancing party: "During the first meeting, she showed no interest in me. And I tried not to show that she made a huge impression on me."

During their next meeting, Raisa said she couldn't believe that Gorbachev was 20 and that he looked much older. "I reacted stupidly: I ran for my passport and showed it to her. And then I felt badly about it, ashamed before the other boys."

There also was an element of jealousy. Raisa was being courted by a young man whose affluent family was in sharp contrast with Gorbachev's peasant roots.



AP

Former Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev, left, signs his book in a book shop in Moscow, Russia, Tuesday, Nov. 13, 2012.

But Raisa's romance with the man ended after a few months when his mother disliked her at their first meeting and demanded that he rupture the link.

She and Gorbacehv started dating and married in 1953. Raisa borrowed shoes for their wedding from a friend.

He also chronicled Raisa's battle with leukemia, describing agonizing days at her bedside, and tells of the stroke she suffered when a group of hardliners briefly ousted Gorbachev during an August 1991 coup attempt.

"She lost her speech, and her right hand went numb. I remembered her eyes in these minutes, and I still see them. There was a fear and a pleading in them," he writes.

Raisa's health continued to deteriorate after that.

NBC's 'Revolution' snares Led Zeppelin songs

LOS ANGELES (AP)—What tunes fit a post-apocalyptic society? For NBC's freshman drama "Revolution," the answer is Led Zeppelin's "Kashmir" and "Since I've Been Loving You."

The songs will be featured in next week's episode of "Revolution," on the same day that Led Zeppelin's "Celebration Day" album and a companion documentary on DVD will be released.

Corporate synergy led to the deal for the onetime rock band that rarely allows use of its music in Hollywood projects. "Revolution" is produced in association with Warner Bros. Television, and Led Zeppelin has a deal with Warner Music Group's publishing arm.

But it was Eric Kripke, creator and executive producer of "Revolution," who brought his series and the band together.

When Warner-Chappell Music sent out an email asking if any producers on the studio lot would be interested in using Led Zeppelin songs, Kripke jumped at the chance.

"The speed and overwhelming enthusiasm with which I responded, I think, frankly weirded them out a little," said the self-described "massive Led Zeppelin fan."

His credentials: Between "Revolution" and "Supernatural," the CW drama he created, Kripke said he's probably used Led Zeppelin references in the titles of some 20 episodes. "Revolution," about an American family struggling with the nation's sudden loss of all electrity and all the technology it powered, was in part inspired by the band's music and its sense of "mythic adventure," he said.

Warner made a logical pick with "Revolution": The series benefits from a Monday berth after NBC's hit singing contest "The Voice" and started strong in the ratings, especially with the advertiser-favored young adult demographic.

The Led Zeppelin-accented episode of "Revolution" will air 10:01 p.m. EST Monday, Nov. 19. A "Revolution" promo spot featuring "Kashmir" will air throughout this week on NBC, with an extended version available on the network's website.

The "Celebration Day" projects document the band's 2007 reunion concert at London's 02 Arena. Original members Plant, Page and John Paul Jones, along with Jason Bonham, son of the late drummer John Bonham, played to honor Atlantic Records founder Ahmet Ertegun.

For the group, which disbanded after John Bonham's 1980 death, the concert was its first full show in 27 years. The documentary, including hits "Whole Lotta Love" and "Stairway To Heaven," was released in theaters last month.

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Skyfall

Friday		4:15	7:15	10:00
Saturday & Sunday	1:15	4:15	7:15	10:00
Monday	1:15	4:15	7:15	
Tuesday thru Thursday		4:15	7:15	

Cast: Daniel Craig, Judi Dench, Javier Bardem
Genre: Spy film, Action • Rated PG13

Synopsis

James Bond returns for another entry in the secret-agent franchise with Sam Mendes at the helm and Daniel Craig back for the twenty-third official Bond film. Neal Purvis, Robert Wade and John Logan provide the script.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Wreck-It Ralph 3D

Friday			7:05	9:35
Saturday & Sunday	1:05		7:05	9:35
Monday	1:05		7:05	
Tuesday thru Thursday			7:05	

Cast: John C. Reilly, Sarah Silverman
Genre: Children's/family • Rated PG

Synopsis

An 8-bit video-game character attempts to shed his bad-guy image by escaping into a popular first-person shooter, but inadvertently wreaks havoc in the video-game universe by freeing a digital villain who can only be contained with the help of a most unlikely ally in this colorful animated adventure. Wreck-It Ralph (voice of John C. Reilly) is the arch nemesis of Fix-It Felix (voice of Jack McBrayer), one of the most beloved video-game icons of all time. In a noble bid to prove he is more than the sum of his programming, Ralph sneaks from his cozy retro home into a highly advanced combat game featuring battle-hardened soldier Sergeant Calhoun (voice of Jane Lynch), and strives to prove his bravery by winning a medal. In the process, however, Ralph accidentally frees the greatest threat the video-game world has ever seen.

Wreck-It Ralph 2D

Friday		4:05		
Saturday & Sunday		4:05		
Monday		4:05		
Tuesday thru Thursday		4:05		

Cast: John C. Reilly, Sarah Silverman
Genre: Children's/family • Rated PG

Here Comes The Boom

Friday		4:00	7:00	9:30
Saturday & Sunday	1:00	4:00	7:00	9:30
Monday	1:00	4:00	7:00	
Tuesday thru Thursday		4:00	7:00	

Cast: Kevin James, Henry Winkler, Salma Hayek
Genre: Comedy • Rated PG

Silent Hill: Revelation 3D

Friday		4:30	7:30	10:00
Saturday & Sunday	1:30	4:30	7:30	10:00
Monday	1:30	4:30	7:30	
Tuesday thru Thursday		4:30	7:30	

Cast: Adelaide Clemens, Carrie-Anne Moss
Genre: Horror • Rated R

A Secret Affair

Friday		4:10	7:10	9:40
Saturday & Sunday	1:10	4:10	7:10	9:40
Monday	1:10	4:10	7:10	
Tuesday thru Thursday		4:10	7:10	

Cast: Anne Curtis, Derek Ramsay, Andi Eigenmann
Genre: Romance, Drama • Rated PG 13

Pitch Perfect

Friday		4:20	7:20	9:55
Saturday & Sunday	1:20	4:20	7:20	9:55
Monday	1:20	4:20	7:20	
Sunday thru Thursday		4:20	7:20	

Cast: Anna Kendrick, Skylar Astin, Ben Platt
Genre: Comedy• Rated PG13

Hotel Transylvania 3D

Friday			7:25	9:50
Saturday & Sunday	1:25		7:25	9:50
Monday	1:25		7:25	
Tuesday thru Thursday			7:25	

Cast: Adam Sandler, Selena Gomez, Kevin James
Genre: Children's/family • Rated PG

Hotel Transylvania 2D

Friday		4:25		
Saturday & Sunday		4:25		
Monday		4:25		
Tuesday thru Thursday		4:25		

Cast: Adam Sandler, Selena Gomez, Kevin James
Genre: Children's/family • Rated PG

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Man who accused Elmo puppeteer of teen sex recants

By FRAZIER MOORE
AP TELEVISION WRITER

NEW YORK (AP)—A man who accused Elmo puppeteer Kevin Clash of having sex with him when he was a teenage boy has recanted his story.

In a quick turnabout, the man on Tuesday described his sexual relationship with Clash as adult and consensual.

Clash responded with a statement of his own, saying he is "relieved that this painful allegation has been put to rest." He had no further comment.

The man, who has not identified himself, released his statement through the Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, law firm Andreozzi & Associates.

Sesame Workshop, which produces "Sesame Street" in New York, soon followed by saying, "We are happy that Kevin can move on from this unfortunate episode."

The whirlwind episode began Monday morning, when Sesame Workshop startled the world by announcing that Clash had taken a leave of absence from "Sesame Street" in the wake of allegations that he had had a relationship with a 16-year-old.

Clash, a 52-year-old divorced father of a grown daughter, swiftly denied the charges of his accuser, who is in his early 20s. In that statement Clash acknowledged that he is gay but said the relationship had been between two consenting adults.

AP
In this Dec. 4, 2011 file photo, Elmo puppeteer Kevin Clash arrives with the "Sesame Street" muppet at the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts for the Kennedy Center Honors gala performance in Washington.

Though it remained unclear where the relationship took place, sex with a person under 17 is a felony in New York if the perpetrator is at least 21.

Sesame Workshop, which said it was first contacted by the accuser in June, had launched an investigation that included meeting with the accuser twice and meeting with Clash. Its investigation found the charge of underage conduct to be unsubstantiated.

Clash said on Monday he would take a break from Sesame Workshop "to deal with this false and defamatory allegation."

Neither Clash nor Sesame Workshop indicated on Tuesday when he might return to the show, on which he has performed as Elmo since 1984.

Elmo had previously been a marginal character, but Clash, supplying the fuzzy red puppet with a high-pitched voice and a carefree, child-like personality, launched the character into major stardom. Elmo soon rivaled Big Bird as the face of "Sesame Street."

Though usually behind the scenes, Clash meanwhile achieved his own measure of fame. In 2006, he published an autobiography, "My Life as a Furry Red Monster," and he was the subject of the 2011 documentary "Being Elmo: A Puppeteer's Journey."

He has won 23 daytime Emmy awards and one primetime Emmy.

Day-Lewis heeded inner ear to find Lincoln's voice

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A towering figure such as Abraham Lincoln, who stood 6 feet 4 and was one of history's master orators, must have had a booming voice to match, right? Not in Daniel Day-Lewis' interpretation.

Day-Lewis, who plays the 16th president in Steven Spielberg's epic film biography "Lincoln," which goes into wide release this weekend, settled on a higher, softer voice, saying it's more true to descriptions of how the man actually spoke.

"There are numerous accounts, contemporary accounts, of his speaking voice. They tend to imply that it was fairly high, in a high register, which I believe allowed him to reach greater numbers of people when he was speaking publicly," Day-Lewis said in an interview. "Because the higher registers tend to reach farther than the lower tones, so that would have been useful to him."

"Lincoln" is just the fifth film in the last 15 years for Day-Lewis, a two-time Academy Award winner for best actor ("My Left Foot" and "There Will Be Blood"). Much of his pickiness stems from a need to understand characters intimately enough to feel that he's actually living out their experiences.

The soft, reedy voice of his Lincoln grew out of that preparation.

"I don't separate vocal work, and I don't dismember a character into its component parts and then kind of bolt it all together, and off you go," Day-Lewis said. "I tend to try and allow things to happen slowly, over a long period of time. As I feel I'm growing into a sense of that life, if I'm lucky, I begin to hear a voice.

"And I don't mean in a supernatural sense. I begin to hear the sound of a voice, and if I like the sound of that, I live with that for a while in my mind's ear, whatever one might call it, my inner ear, and then I set about trying to reproduce that."

Day-Lewis

Lincoln himself likely learned to use his voice to his advantage depending on the situation, Day-Lewis said.

"He was a supreme politician. I've no doubt in my mind that when you think of all the influences in his life, from his childhood in Kentucky and Indiana and a good part of his younger life in southern Illinois, that the sounds of all those regions would have come together in him somehow.

"And I feel that he probably learned how to play with his voice in public and use it in certain ways in certain places and in certain other ways in other places. Especially in the manner in which he expressed himself. I think, I've no doubt that he was conscious enough of his image."

CHART TOPPERS

The top 10 songs and albums on the iTunes Store for the week ending Nov. 12, 2012:

TOP SONGS

1. "Gangnam Style," PSY
2. "Locked Out of Heaven," Bruno Mars
3. "Diamonds," Rihanna
4. "Die Young," Ke$ha
5. "One More Night," Maroon 5
6. "I Cry," Flo Rida
7. "Some Nights," Fun.
8. "Ho Hey," The Lumineers
9. "Home," Phillip Phillips
10. "Skyfall," ADELE

TOP ALBUMS

1. "Red," Taylor Swift
2. "Take Me Home: Yearbook Edition," One Direction
3. "R.E.D." Ne-Yo
4. "Babel," Mumford & Sons
5. "good kid, m.A.A.d city," Kendrick Lamar
6. "Dreams and Nightmares," Meek Mill
7. "Punk Goes Pop 5," Various Artists
8. "Unapologetic," Rihanna
9. "Night Train," Jason Aldean
10. "The Lumineers," The Lumineers

Spotify's Top 10 most streamed tracks from Monday, Nov. 5 to Sunday, Nov. 11:

UNITED STATES

1. Ke$ha, "Die Young" (RCA/Kemosabe Records)
2. Rihanna, "Diamonds" (Island Def Jam Music Group)
3. Fun., "Some Nights" (WEA/Fueled By Ramen)
4. Taylor Swift, "We Are Never Ever Getting Back Together" (Big Machine Records)
5. The Lumineers, "Ho Hey" (Dualtone)
6. Psy, "Gangnam Style" (Schoolboy/Universal Republic)
7. Imagine Dragons, "It's Time" (Interscope)
8. Alex Clare, "Too Close" (Universal Island Records)
9. Bruno Mars, "Locked Out Of Heaven" (Atlantic)
10. Mumford & Sons, "I Will Wait" (Glassnote Entertainment Group)

UNITED KINGDOM

1. Labrinth, "Beneath Your Beautiful" (Simco Limited)
2. Swedish House Mafia, "Don't You Worry Child (Radio Edit feat. John Martin)" (EMI)
3. Rihanna, "Diamonds" (Island Def Jam Music Group)
4. Psy, "Gangnam Style" (Schoolboy/Universal Republic)
5. Maroon 5, "One More Night" (A&M/Octone)
6. Calvin Harris, "Sweet Nothing" (SME UK LTD.)
7. Taylor Swift, "We Are Never Ever Getting Back Together" (Big Machine Records)
8. The Script, "Hall of Fame" (SME UK LTD.)
9. Robbie Williams, "Candy" (Farrell Music Ltd./Universal Island)
10. David Guetta, "She Wolf (Falling to Pieces feat. Sia)"(What A Music Ltd./EMI)

The top iPhone and iPad apps on App Store for the week ending Nov. 12, 2012:

TOP PAID IPHONE APPS:

1. Angry Birds Star Wars (Rovio Entertainment Ltd)
2. Wreck-it Ralph (Disney)
3. Bad Piggies (Rovio Entertainment Ltd)
4. WhatsApp Messenger (WhatsApp Inc.)
5. Minecraft — Pocket Edition (Mojang)
6. Plague Inc. (Ndemic Creations)
7. Afterglow — Photo Editor (Simon Filip)
8. Empires: World War (Midverse Studios)
9. TETRIS (Electronic Arts)
10. Angry Birds Space (Rovio Entertainment Ltd)

TOP FREE IPHONE APPS

1. YouTube (Google, Inc.)
2. Extreme Road Trip 2 (Roofdog Games)
3. Pocket Climber (PunchBox Studios)
4. Snapchat (Snapchat, Inc.)
5. Emoji 2 Emoticons Free — 300+ Symbols & Icons (Empire Apps)
6. Facebook (Facebook, Inc.)
7. Flashlight ? (iHandy Inc.)
8. Instagram (Burbn, Inc.)
9. Find My iPhone (Apple)
10. Podcasts (Apple)

TOP PAID IPAD APPS

1. Angry Birds Star Wars HD (Rovio Entertainment Ltd)
2. Wreck-it Ralph (Disney)
3. Angry Birds Star Wars (Rovio Entertainment Ltd)
4. Bad Piggies HD (Rovio Entertainment Ltd)
5. Bubble Guppies: Animal School Day HD (MTV Networks)
6. GarageBand (Apple)
7. Minecraft — Pocket Edition (Mojang)
8. Pages (Apple)
9. The Room (Fireproof Games)
10. Where's My Water? (Disney)

TOP FREE IPAD APPS

1. Video Tube Free for YouTube (Yau You Music Video Professionals — Tube Studio)
2. Piano Free with Songs (Daniel Perez)
3. Extreme Road Trip 2 (Roofdog Games)
4. Podcasts (Apple)
5. Gangnam Style President (Appuri, Inc.)
6. Pocket Climber HD (PunchBox Studios)
7. iTunes U (Apple)
8. Find My Friends (Apple)
9. Find My iPhone (Apple)
10. Skype for iPad (Skype Communications S.a.r.l)

One Direction to star in 3-D film

One Direction is headed to a movie theater near you.

Sony Pictures says it's making a 3-D film about the boy band, due out next year on Labor Day weekend.

Super Size Me" filmmaker Morgan Spurlock will direct the movie.

The film will give fans an all-access, behind-the- scenes look at the group and its five members: Niall Horan (hohr-AN'), Zayn Malik (mah-LEEK'), Liam Payne, Harry Styles and Louis Tomlinson.

The London-based band was discovered by Simon Cowell on the U.K.'s "The X Factor" in 2010. They have sold over 13 million records worldwide and are known for hits including "What Makes You Beautiful," ''One Thing" and "Live While We're Young." ***(AP)***

AP

One Direction members, from left, Niall Horan, Liam Payne, Zayn Malik, Louis Tomlinson and Harry Styles perform on NBC's "Today" show on Tuesday, Nov. 13, 2012 in New York.

Biden meets with U2 frontman

WASHINGTON (AP)—The White House says Vice President Joe Biden has met with U2 frontman Bono to discuss global development, AIDS and efforts to fight poverty.

Bono

The singer and activist has been a leading advocate for Africa, drawing attention to issues ranging from poverty and hunger to AIDS.

Spokesman Jay Carney joked that Bono and Jim Messina—President Barack Obama's campaign manager—were forming a new band. Messina also visited the White House on Tuesday. Carney says Obama did not meet with Bono.

Petraeus enlisted for cameo in 'Call of Duty' game

LOS ANGELES (AP)—David Petraeus has landed on his feet with a new gig in "Call of Duty: Black Ops II."

The retired Army general who stepped down as CIA director last week amid a scandal surrounding his extramarital affair pops up in the highly anticipated Activision Blizzard Inc. first-person shooter game released Tuesday.

A character with Petraeus' name and likeness voiced by Jim Meskimen briefly appears as the Secretary of Defense in the year 2025.

The cameo was first reported by the gaming site Kotaku.com.

"Call of Duty" games have often employed virtual renditions of political figures.

"Black Ops II" also features an encounter with Manuel Noriega, a female president resembling current Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton, an aircraft carrier named the USS Barack Obama and an appearance by retired Lt. Col. Oliver North.

Michael Uslan's 1980 choice for Joker up for sale

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—Here's the Joker!

Film producer and comics fan Michael Uslan, who acquired the rights to make Batman as a movie in 1979, knew nearly a decade before Tim Burton's 1989 "Batman" was released who the Joker would be.

AP

This image released by Metropolis Collectibles, Inc. shows a drawing of actor Jack Nicholson as The Joker in Tim Burton's 1989 "Batman," drawn by film producer Michael Uslan over a photo of the actor as Jack Torrance from the film "The Shining," that was printed in The New York Post in 1980.

It came in a burst of inspiration in 1980 from the pages in the New York Post: a publicity photo of Jack Nicholson from the "The Shining" in which he hacks through a door and announces, "Here's Johnny!"

Uslan knew immediately he'd found his clown prince of crime. Using black marker, a red pen and Wite-Out, he turned Nicholson into the DC Comics villain.

The sketch went up for auction Monday until Dec. 3 through ComicConnect.com, along with several other pieces of art and comics that Uslan has collected.

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Collage from Beatles album fetches $87,720

LONDON (AP)—Sotheby's says an original piece of artwork from the Beatles' "Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band" album has fetched 55,250 pounds ($87,720) at an auction. The auction house said the original 1967 collage for the insert to the album sold to a bidder in London on Tuesday. The sale marked the first time the collage by Sir Peter Blake was on the market. The auction house said Blake was introduced to the Beatles by his dealer, and that he and his wife worked closely with Paul McCartney and John Lennon to create the imagery of the "Sgt. Pepper." Sotheby's said the collage was sold from the collection of architect Colin St. John Wilson. The auction house had estimated that the piece would sell for between 50,000 and 80,000 pounds.

American Michael Ellis leads French Michelin guide

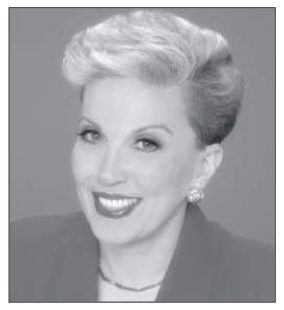
SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Something new is in the stars for the Michelin Guide—the French restaurant reviewing institution is getting an American accent. Colorado-born Michael Ellis, who took over the job early this year but made his debut U.S. tour as ambassador of the guides this fall, is the first American to head the Michelin Guide. The idea that an American would be put in charge of "this bible of French gastronomy is kind of a big deal," says Colman Andrews, editorial director of TheDailyMeal.com. "The Guide Michelin is such a French institution, it would have been unthinkable even probably 10 years ago to think that an American would ever run it." Another big deal: Ellis' challenge of finding a way to keep the guides relevant, and solvent, in an eat-and-tweet world.

Zynga CFO David Wehner deflects to Facebook

NEW YORK (AP)—Zynga's finance chief is leaving the troubled online game company to join Facebook. San Francisco-based Zynga Inc. said Tuesday that David Wehner will take a "senior finance position" at the social networking company. His exact title will be vice president of corporate finance and business planning, Facebook said. Chief accounting officer, Mark Vranesh, is replacing Wehner as chief financial officer, returning to the post he held from 2008 to 2010, while Zynga was still a private company. Zynga also reshuffled its executive ranks, a move CEO Mark Pincus said puts the company in a position for "long-term growth." Zynga, whose games include "FarmVille" and "Texas HoldEm Poker," has seen its stock price fall sharply in recent months amid concerns about its ability to make money from mobile games, off of Facebook.

Church's familiar routine may comfort Alzheimer's patient

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: I'm writing about a letter you published Sept. 23 from "Friend in Arizona." She wrote that after her friend "Blanche" was diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease, Blanche had asked not to be "paraded around for others to gawk at" after she reached a certain point. You advised that continuing to take her friend to church every Sunday was going against her wishes. I disagree.

I'm an LPN and specialize in Alzheimer's. I have been doing this for more than 25 years, and have headed Alzheimer care units. One of the things we strive for is some sense of normalcy. These people lose their short-term memory at first. But many have strong, vivid memories of years ago.

Going to church every Sunday is probably one of the few things Blanche actually remembers, and it most likely brings her a sense of comfort. Most of the parishioners probably have known her for years. This isn't walking through a mall full of strangers; it is enjoying fellowship with old friends. I'm sure they are not "gawking."

Nursing homes are often frightening to Alzheimer's patients—full of strange sounds and people. Church, however, is full of beloved hymns and friends.

Unfortunately, there will come a time when her disease will progress to the point that these trips will become stressful for her, and possibly that her behavior will become too difficult for church. But until that time comes, I hope this dear friend continues to do such a wonderful thing for this woman. I only hope that I have such caring friends in my later years.

JENNIFER IN CARTHAGE, MO.

DEAR JENNIFER: I would like to thank you and the many readers who urged me to change my answer to that letter. Some pointed out that Blanche had elicited the promise when she was a "different person," far different from the woman she is today. However, I am torn.

While I think it's brutal for older people who suffer from dementia to be treated as pariahs and isolated (and many are), and clearly this friend is well-meaning, I also feel strongly that a person's wishes stated in advance should be respected. Blanche may have wanted to be remembered as the person she was, and entrusted her friend to carry out her wishes "after she reached a certain point."

The writer of that letter asked me if I thought she was wrong to disregard her friend's wishes. I apologize if anyone was offended by my telling her I thought she was.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: My wife and I have a disagreement. No matter what we are doing, she's constantly checking her cellphone for texts or emails. Then she'll get into text conversations and talk to herself while I sit there wondering what's so funny. It happens a lot—anytime, anywhere. Her cellphone is a constant companion and usually the center of attention.

Am I too sensitive in thinking that the phone should be put away sometimes when we're together? Or is this the world in which we now live?

LIKE I'M NOT THERE IN RICHLAND, WASH.

DEAR LIKE YOU'RE NOT THERE: You are not being overly sensitive. Have you told your wife that you feel she's neglecting you because she pays more attention to her cellphone? If you haven't, you should. If she has any consideration for your feelings, she will turn it off for an agreed period of time so she can spend that time with you.

Marriages take work if they're going to last, and communication is crucial. If she refuses to listen to you, deliver the message via text or email, or with the help of a licensed marriage counselor.

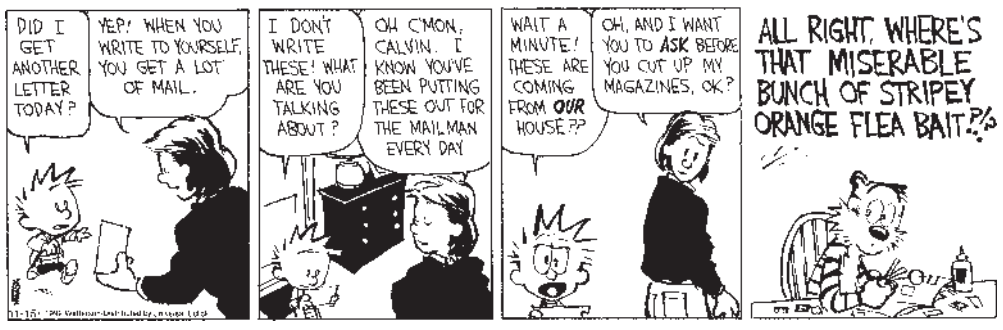
Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Good advice for everyone – teens to seniors – is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

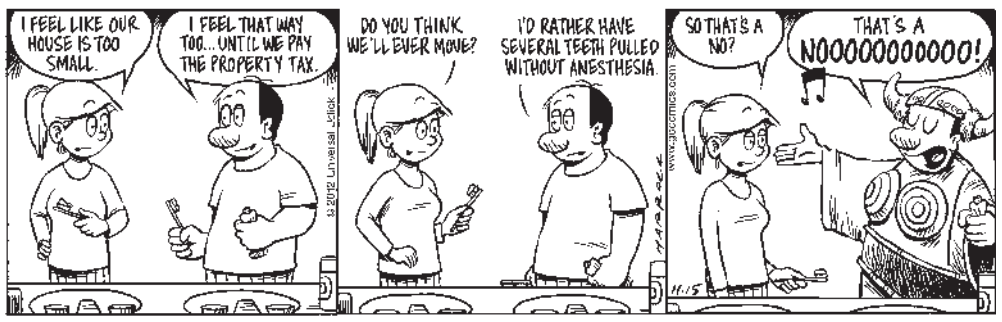

DID I GET ANOTHER LETTER TODAY?
YEP! WHEN YOU WRITE TO YOURSELF, YOU GET A LOT OF MAIL.
I DON'T WRITE THESE! WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
OH C'MON, CALVIN. I KNOW YOU'VE BEEN PUTTING THESE OUT FOR THE MAILMAN EVERY DAY
WAIT A MINUTE! THESE ARE COMING FROM OUR HOUSE??
OH, AND I WANT YOU TO ASK BEFORE YOU CUT UP MY MAGAZINES, OK?
ALL RIGHT, WHERE'S THAT MISERABLE BUNCH OF STRIPEY ORANGE FLEA BAIT?!

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


I FEEL LIKE OUR HOUSE IS TOO SMALL.
I FEEL THAT WAY TOO... UNTIL WE PAY THE PROPERTY TAX.
DO YOU THINK WE'LL EVER MOVE?
I'D RATHER HAVE SEVERAL TEETH PULLED WITHOUT ANESTHESIA.
SO THAT'S A NO?
THAT'S A NOOOOOOOOOO!

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

I'M NEVER GOING TO GET MY STUDENT LOAN PAID OFF!
HOW COULD YOU OWE ON A STUDENT LOAN? YOU DIDN'T GO TO COLLEGE!
I KNOW. I SPENT IT ALL ON BEER.

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 Slender
5 Cribbage scorer
8 Pinnacle
12 Defense acronym
13 Yon maiden
14 Capricorn
15 Portent
16 Yoko of music
17 Juli Inkster's org.
18 Lament
20 Sea greeting
22 Complete win
26 Coral structure
29 Allow
30 24 horas
31 Bear lair
32 Rowing need
33 Obsolescent letter opener?
34 PC file extension
35 Jewel
36 Silences
37 1967 Lee Marvin movie, with "The"
40 Ms. Moore
41 Not alfresco
45 Teeny bit
47 Spot on a domino
49 — -European
50 Padlocked fastener
51 Ref
52 Many
53 Help in a heist
54 Agent
55 Bard's instrument

DOWN
1 Uppity one
2 Weak, as an excuse
3 Thing
4 Eyeglass
5 Cell, e.g.
6 Poetic time of day
7 Bad pun
8 Radiant
9 Work on manuscripts
10 Periodical, for short
11 Greek vowel
19 Every iota
21 White House monogram
23 Texas mission
24 Green land
25 Just say no
26 Scored 100 on
27 Urban transport
28 Take too much medicine
32 Solver of the Riddle of the Sphinx
33 Old timer?
35 Workout locale
36 Chaps
38 Entice
39 Very quick
42 Sans siblings
43 Stench
44 Memorization method
45 "Eureka!"
46 Bill
48 Devil's minion

Solution time: 25 mins.

		G	A	P			T	S	P			
	G	I	R	L		S	H	E	E	N		
I	N	D	I	A		C	I	R	R	U	S	
D	A	D	D	Y	W	A	R	B	U	C	K	S
S	T	Y		P	O	N	D	S		L	I	E
			B	E	N	T			S	E	E	N
	A	G	E	N	I		F	A	K	I	R	
A	I	A	N			M	A	N	Y			
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D	A	D	D	Y	L	O	N	G	L	E	G	S
S	I	I	O	O	I	N		R	A	T	E	D
		I	O	T	A	S		A	M	E	S	
			R	O	D			M	A	R		

Yesterday's answer 11-15

1	2	3	4	■	5	6	7	■	8	9	10	11
12				■	13			■	14			
15				■	16			■	17			
18				19		■	20	21			■	■
■	■	■	22			23					24	25
26	27	28			■	29			■	30		
31				■	32			■	33			
34			■	35			■	36				
37			38				39			■	■	■
■	■	40				■	41			42	43	44
45	46			■	47	48		■	49			
50				■	51			■	52			
53				■	54			■	55			

STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99c per minute. touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Shailene Woodley, 21; Jonny Lee Miller, 40; Beverly D'Angelo, 61; Sam Waterston, 72.

Happy Birthday: Emotional ups and downs can clutter your life. You have to prioritize carefully to ensure that you get what needs to be done out of the way, regardless of what's going on around you. Charm coupled with a good attitude and smart partnerships will bring you closer to your goals and greater happiness. Love and romance are highlighted. Your numbers are 6, 17, 23, 25, 34, 36, 48.

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Keep things flowing and you will avoid criticism. Offer positive thoughts and compassion to those you deal with and you will get what you want in return. Love is highlighted, and a past partner is likely to reappear. ✪✪✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Put some power behind whatever you say you are going to do. Follow through with determination and intensity. Concentrate on relationships that benefit you. Sidestep anyone who tries to get in your way. Strength and courage will result in leadership. ✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Put more emphasis on what you have to offer and you will improve your position. Emotions will surface, but if you take a compassionate approach when dealing with others, you will gain approval instead of opposition. Love is in the stars. ✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): You'll find some bargains if you go shopping. Picking up little things for friends or colleagues will be a nice way to show your appreciation. Networking and exploring pastimes that interest you will lead to new beginnings and exhilarating challenges. ✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Push through whatever you can complete. It's important to show how capable you are if you want to avoid complaints. Physical challenges will help ease stress. Charm, diplomacy and refusing to let anyone upset you will be the trick to maintaining good relationships. ✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Your knowledge and expertise will separate you from any competition you face. Discuss your plans and seek support from your community and those in a position to help you accomplish your goals. A proposal based on the facts you offer will pay off. ✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Open up emotionally and you will grab the attention of someone who can relate to your concerns. Make self-improvements. Short trips, shopping or getting together with a friend will brighten your day. ✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Express your thoughts and plans for the future. Personal changes can lead to improved finances as well as a new beginning. Re-evaluate your relationships with others and consider who is beneficial. Don't settle for less when you can have more. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Keep moving in the direction that suits you best. Someone may withhold information, but as long as you are aware and do your own fact-finding, you are not likely to miss a beat

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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when striving to reach your goals. Love is accentuated. ✪✪✪

CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Tie up loose ends. Set up your strategy and take stock of what you have and what you need to get where you want to go. Serious progress can be made if you are diligent when you negotiate. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Keep your thoughts private until you see what everyone around you says and does. You can improve or harm your reputation depending on your actions. Spending time with someone special or fixing up your home will ease your stress. ✪✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Play to win. Do not let your emotions lead to your downfall. Meddling will not bring good results, but wheeling and dealing positively will make others want to participate in what you are offering. Self-improvement will come at a price. ✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are engaging and fearless. You are responsive and a powerful crusader.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations,* ***myspace.com/eugenialast*** *for Eugenia's blog,* ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

7		8			4			9
		4	1		3	6		2
3		1				8		
				2				
		7				9		4
5		3	2		6	1		
6			5			2		8

Difficulty Level ★★★ 11/15

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

1	6	3	5	7	2	9	4	8
2	9	7	8	3	4	6	5	1
4	5	8	1	9	6	3	7	2
6	3	1	9	4	5	8	2	7
8	7	5	3	2	1	4	6	9
9	4	2	7	6	8	1	3	5
7	2	6	4	8	9	5	1	3
5	8	4	2	1	3	7	9	6
3	1	9	6	5	7	2	8	4

Difficulty Level ★★★ 11/14

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WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

FINANCIAL TIMES NEWSPAPER **Solution: 9 letters**

F	F	C	M	B	T	I	M	E	S	T	E	S	S	A
A	I	O	A	U	S	L	E	T	O	H	P	E	D	H
S	G	N	N	S	S	E	N	I	O	R	O	U	O	C
H	U	S	A	I	S	E	M	O	H	E	R	S	O	O
I	R	U	G	N	V	S	Y	E	V	R	U	S	G	M
O	E	M	E	E	C	U	L	T	U	R	E	I	A	M
N	S	P	M	S	A	I	D	E	M	C	N	(D)	C	E
E	E	T	E	S	R	D	A	T	O	V	G	(O)	O	N
W	S	I	N	P	E	P	S	L	E	L	V	(O)	U	T
S	Y	O	T	O	E	U	U	S	O	E	L	(F)	N	A
P	L	N	S	R	R	M	T	B	R	M	A	E	T	R
A	A	A	K	T	N	M	A	A	L	U	X	U	R	Y
P	N	M	L	S	E	L	G	Y	L	I	A	D	Y	I
E	A	E	A	N	L	E	A	D	E	R	S	A	V	E
R	N	S	T	R	A	V	E	L	I	F	E	H	E	S

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Yesterday's Answer: Orchestra

The WONDERWORD MILLENNIUM SERIES can be ordered by sending check or money order for $11.95 each plus $3.00 postage and handling ($4.95 total) to: JUS Publishing, 3200 Rice Mine Road Northeast, Tuscaloosa, AL 35406. Delivery in 1120 Walnut St., Kansas City, Mo. 64106 or call toll-free, 1-800-642-5453. Order online at uclick.com (choose the 100 puzzles, including 20 of this year's 20 titles).

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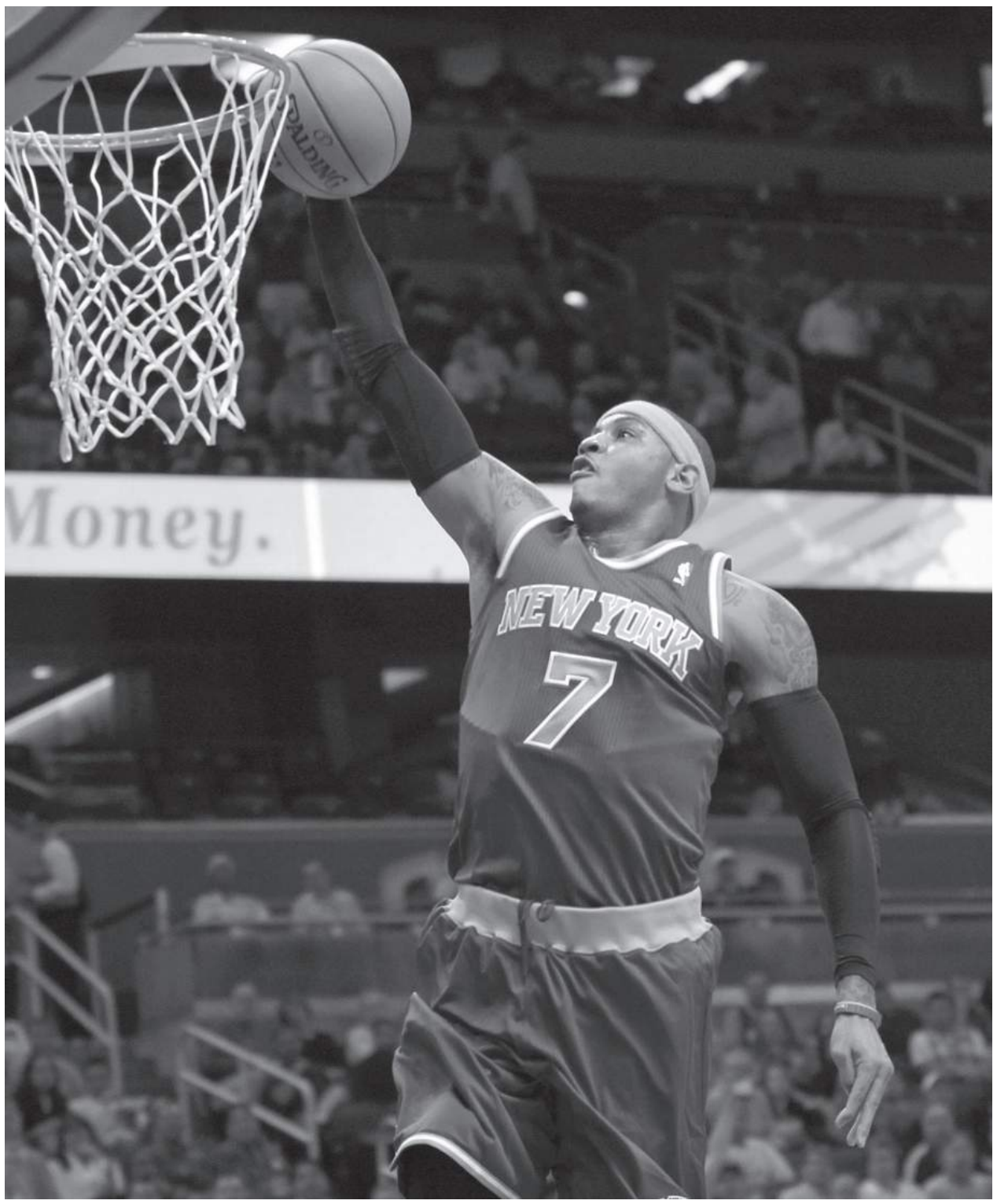
Carmelo, Knicks hold off Magic to improve to 5-0

ORLANDO, Fla.—Carmelo Anthony scored 25 points, J.R. Smith and Raymond Felton each added 21, and the New York Knicks held off the Orlando Magic 99-89 Tuesday night.

The only unbeaten team in the NBA, the Knicks are 5-0 for the first time since opening the 1993-94 season with seven wins.

J.J. Redick led Orlando with 18 points and Arron Afflalo scored 13 for a Magic team stunted by 20 turnovers that led to 24 New York points.

The Magic dropped their fifth consecutive game and continued to struggle without starters Jameer Nelson and Hedo Turkoglu.



AP

New York Knicks' Carmelo Anthony makes an uncontested shot off of a fast break against the Orlando Magic during the first half of an NBA basketball game, Tuesday, Nov. 13, 2012, in Orlando, Fla.

Spurs 84, Lakers 82

In Los Angeles, Danny Green hit the go-ahead 3-pointer with 9.3 seconds left, Tony Parker scored 19 points and San Antonio beat Los Angeles in the Lakers' first loss since firing coach Mike Brown.

After Pau Gasol missed a 3-pointer, Tiago Splitter's hustle prevented the Lakers from controlling the rebound before the buzzer sounded on Los Angeles' first game since hiring Mike D'Antoni late Sunday night. Interim coach Bernie Bickerstaff ran the team for the third straight game.

Tim Duncan had 18 points and 11 rebounds for the Spurs, who improved the Western Conference's best record to 7-1 thanks to Green's third 3-pointer of the night.

Kobe Bryant had 28 points and eight rebounds for the Lakers, who dropped to 3-5 after committing 17 turnovers on a poor shooting night. Dwight Howard had 13 points and 15 rebounds.

Bobcats 92, Wizards 76

In Charlotte, N.C., Ramon Sessions scored 21 points and Charlotte beat winless Washington to get back-to-back victories for the first time since last December.

Rookie Michael Kidd-Gilchrist chipped in 15 points and eight rebounds before leaving in the fourth quarter to ice down a sore back. Kemba Walker battled inconsistent shooting but finished with 17 points for the Bobcats (3-3).

It marked the first time the Bobcats have won two straight since taking the final game of the 2010-11 season and the first of last season.

Trevor Ariza scored 19 points for the Wizards, who fell to 0-6.

The Bobcats (3-3) limited the Wizards to 29.8 percent shooting and outscored them 46-24 in the paint.

Raptors 74, Pacers 72

In Indianapolis, DeMar DeRozan scored 15 points and Jose Calderon had 13 points, 10 rebounds and 10 assists to lead Toronto.

DeRozan and Calderon each had 10 points in the first half for the Raptors, who had a franchise-low five points in the fourth quarter. Toronto led 69-58 heading into the fourth and hit only one field goal the rest of the way, also a franchise low record.

George Hill scored 18 points and Paul George had 12 points and nine rebounds to lead the Pacers, who have lost four of the last five.

Indiana went on a 9-0 run in the fourth and pulled to 74-72 with 1:02 left in the game. Neither team scored again.

Nets 114, Cavaliers 101

In New York, Deron Williams had 26 points and 10 assists, Joe Johnson scored 25 points, and Brooklyn beat road-weary Cleveland for its third straight victory.

Brook Lopez added 23 points for the Nets, who opened a 20-point lead at home for the third straight game, but this time barely let up and beat the Cavaliers for the sixth time in eight meetings after losing nine in a row, mostly during the LeBron James era.

Anderson Varejao scored a career-high 35 points and grabbed 18 rebounds for the Cavaliers, who were wrapping up a six-game, coast-to-coast trip and played much of the game with the urgency of a team that wanted to be home.

They haven't played there since Nov. 2, their second game of the season, and dropped the final four games of the trip to finish 1-5.

Trail Blazers 103, Kings 86

In Sacramento, Damian Lillard had 22 points and nine assists to help Portland stop a four-game losing streak with a victory over short-handed Sacramento.

Portland used a strong third quarter to build its lead to 16 points and pushed the cushion to 22 early in the fourth. The Trail Blazers outrebounded the Kings and connected on 14 of 27 attempts from 3-point range.

LaMarcus Aldridge scored 19 points for Portland and Wesley Matthews had 18. Nicolas Batum had 15 points, seven rebounds and five assists. J.J. Hickson added 10 points and 13 rebounds.

James Johnson scored 16 for the Kings, who dropped their third straight. They played their second consecutive game without leading scorer and rebounder DeMarcus Cousins, suspended following a verbal altercation last week with San Antonio Spurs television announcer Sean Elliott.

Cousins lost an appeal Tuesday to reduce the suspension to one game.

Sacramento also was missing starting point guard Isaiah Thomas and backup Aaron Brooks, who injured his left ankle in the first quarter and didn't return.

Roethlisberger has sprained shoulder

PITTSBURGH (AP)—Ben Roethlisberger left Heinz Field on Monday night with his sprained right shoulder in a sling. When he walks back in ready to play is anybody's guess.

Tomlin called Pittsburgh's franchise quarterback "questionable" but otherwise offered little detail Tuesday, less than 24 hours after Roethlisberger was pounded into the ground by Kansas City Chiefs linebackers Tamba Hali and Justin Houston in the third quarter of Pittsburgh's 16-13 overtime victory.

"He is being evaluated," Tomlin said. "Obviously this injury puts his participation in the questionable category for this week."

Roethlisberger left the game and went to the hospital to for an MRI-exam. He underwent more tests on Tuesday to determine the severity of the sprain to the sternoclavicular (SC) joint in his throwing shoulder.

The SC joint connects the collarbone to the sternum. Treatment can range from a few days of rest and ice to as much as 4-6 weeks according to Dr. Victor Khabie, chief of sports medicine at Northern Westchester Hospital in Mount Kisco, N.Y.

"You could tape it, you could do that stuff but the reality is those ligaments just have to heal," Khabie said. "If you go throwing, you slow down the healing process."

Roethlisberger was scrambling in the pocket to buy time on Pittsburgh's first possession of the second half when Houston wrapped up Roethlisberger's legs and Hali slammed into him, driving the quarterback's right side into the damp Heinz Field turf. Roethlisberger didn't appear to be hurt walking off the field but quickly made his way to the locker room before leaving the stadium with the game still in progress.

"It didn't seem like a tough hit ... but he came to the sideline and next thing you know he was gone," Pittsburgh left tackle Max Starks said. "I'm hoping it was nothing serious. Honestly it didn't seem like it."

If Roethlisberger can't play, the Steelers (6-3) will turn veteran backup Byron Leftwich, who completed 7 of 14 passes for 73 yards in relief as Pittsburgh won its fourth straight game thanks to Shaun Suisham's 23-yard field goal 51 seconds into the extra period.

The 32-year-old Leftwich hasn't started a game since 2009, when he went 0-3 for the Tampa Bay Buccaneers. His last victory came on Oct. 8, 2006 when the Jacksonville Jaguars beat the New York Jets 41-0.

The former first round pick has spent most of the last six years as a backup while dealing with a series of significant injuries. He missed all of last season after breaking his arm in a preseason game and threw seven regular season passes in 2010 after hurting his knee at the end of training camp.

Though there was a bit of rust after getting pressed into service, Leftwich did guide the Steelers to a go-ahead field goal in the fourth quarter.

"I try to prepare as if I am the starter every week," Leftwich said. "Nothing will change. I wish Ben the best. I hope he is healthy. Other than that I will be ready to go."

Leftwich insists he has mastered offensive coordinator Todd Haley's playbook and Leftwich's teammates are hardly concerned if he's under center on Sunday.

"We don't have a true rookie back there that's never taken a snap before," Starks said. "We feel good about who we have back there if it is Byron. We'll move forward and wait Ben's return if that's the case."

Roethlisberger isn't the only big name that could be out on Sunday. Safety Troy Polamalu continues to be plagued by a right calf injury and Tomlin described him "doubtful" to play against the Ravens. Safety Ryan Clark sustained a concussion for the second time in three games when he took a knee to the head from Kansas City wide receiver Dwayne Bowe, though Tomlin said it appears Clark is fine.

Maybe, but it's not exactly the way the Steelers wanted to be heading into a crucial three-game stretch that includes two games against the hated Ravens in three weeks.

Baltimore (7-2) appeared ready to run away with the division after Pittsburgh stumbled to a 2-3 start. The Steelers have ripped off four straight to draw within a game and can take firm control of the AFC North at home on Sunday.

The prospect of doing it without their two-time Super Bowl winning quarterback makes that task more difficult, but not impossible.

"B-Left has been here a long time," defensive end Brett Keisel said. "If he's in there, we expect to keep rolling."

Melvin, Johnson picked as managers of the year

NEW YORK (AP)—Young rosters, small budgets, limited expectations.

No matter.

Bob Melvin of the Oakland Athletics and Washington's Davey Johnson won big right away and were chosen as managers of the year Tuesday after guiding their teams to huge turnaround seasons.

Melvin beat out Baltimore's Buck Showalter for the AL honor in a close vote by a Baseball Writers' Association of America panel. In his first full season with Oakland, the rookie-laden A's made a 20-game improvement, finished 94-68 and stunned just about everyone by winning the AL West with baseball's lowest payroll.

Still, the unassuming skipper was surprised to win.

"Absolutely shocked. I mean, Buck had such a great year," Melvin said on MLB Network.

Johnson was an easy choice for the NL prize after the Nationals—who had never enjoyed a winning season—posted the best record in the majors and made their first playoff appearance.

Johnson, who turns 70 in January, was honored for the second time. He was tabbed as the AL's top manager in 1997, hours after he resigned from the Orioles in a feud with owner Peter Angelos.

This time, Johnson will get a while to enjoy the accolade.

The Nationals announced this month that he will guide them in 2013, when he will be the oldest manager in the majors. He's set to leave the Washington dugout and become a team consultant in 2014.

"World Series or bust," Johnson said on MLB Network. "It's going to be my last year, anyway."

Melvin also became a two-time winner, having been chosen in 2007 with Arizona. He and Johnson joined Jim Leyland, Bobby Cox, Tony La Russa and Lou Piniella as the only managers to win the award in both leagues.

La Russa was the only other Oakland manager to earn the honor, in 1988 and 1992.

Melvin received 16 first-place votes. Showalter got the other 12 firsts after leading the wild-card Orioles to their first winning season since 1997, and Chicago White Sox manager Robin Ventura finished third.

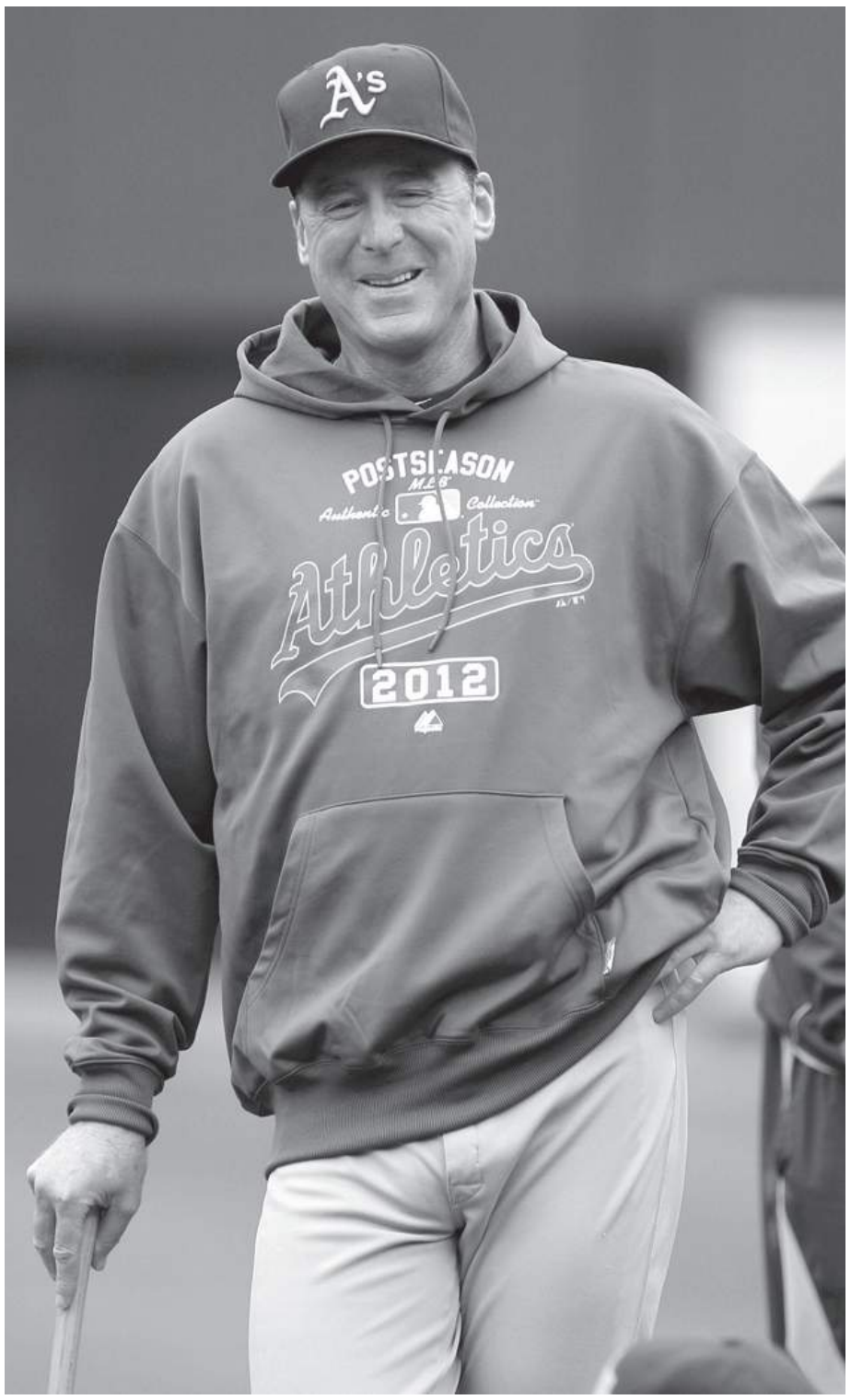
With five rookies in their starting rotation, the A's were one of baseball's biggest surprises this year - especially after trades, injuries and the suspension of veteran pitcher Bartolo Colon wreaked havoc with the roster. Oakland never panicked under Melvin's cool demeanor, rallied from 13 games back on June 30 and overtook Texas in the final week to win the division.

The Athletics went 72-38 after June 1, the best record in the majors. They became the first team in big league history to come back from a deficit of at least five games with fewer than 10 remaining to win a division or pennant. The A's then lost in five games in the first round of the playoffs to AL champion Detroit.

"We just tried to keep it day to day," Melvin said. "It's a credit to the guys each and every day going out there and just worrying about that particular day."

Johnson received 23 of the 32 first-place votes, Dusty Baker of NL Central winner Cincinnati got five firsts and was second. Bruce Bochy of the World Series champion San Francisco Giants got four firsts and was third.

Washington won its second major postseason award, both in the past two days. Bryce Harper was voted NL Rookie of the Year on Monday.



AP

In this Oct. 5, 2012, file photo, Oakland Athletics manager Bob Melvin smiles before batting practice in preparation for Game 1 of the American League division baseball series against the Detroit Tigers in Detroit.

Washington went 98-64 this year, taking over the NL East lead in late May and staying in first place the rest of the way. Boosted by Harper, Cy Young Award candidate Gio Gonzalez and their fresh "Natitude," they brought postseason baseball to Washington for the first time since 1933.

The playoffs didn't go quite so well. Minus Stephen Strasburg—team execs decided the ace had pitched enough in his first "full" season following elbow surgery—Washington blew a 6-0 lead and lost the deciding Game 5 of the division series to St. Louis. Voting for the BBWAA awards was done before the playoffs.

Johnson oversaw a diverse roster, one made up of young and old, Washington veterans and newcomers. A four-time All-Star, three-time Gold Glover, two-time World Series champion and the last big leaguer to get a hit off Sandy Koufax, Johnson spoke with a soft, raspy tone but always held his team's attention.

He would occasionally raise his voice - he liked to holler "whack-o!" when the Nationals homered.

"Davey Johnson's legacy was secure well before he became our manager in 2011, but his performance this season has to rate among his best work," Nationals general manager Mike Rizzo said. "He showed this club how to win despite being engaged in a pennant race for the first time. And he accomplished this with so many young players."

Johnson managed the New York Mets to the 1986 championship and later guided Cincinnati and the Orioles. He returned to managing in 1999 with the Los Angeles Dodgers for two years.

In June 2011, Johnson was working as a senior adviser with the Nationals when Jim Riggleman suddenly resigned midway through the season. Johnson took over and agreed to be part of a search committee to select a manager for 2012, allowing that he could be a candidate for the post, too.

The Nationals finished 80-81, barely missing out on their first winning season, and Johnson was brought back for another try.

Washington was without major league baseball for more than three decades. The Senators moved to Texas after the 1971 season, then the Montreal Expos moved to D.C. to start in 2005.

Under Johnson, the Nationals put aside their losing past and set up a winning future.

The same is true of the A's. Fired by the Diamondbacks early in 2009, Melvin was hired as Oakland's interim manager on June 9, 2011. Three months later, he signed a three-year contract that runs through the 2014 season.

Source: Marlins trade three stars to Blue Jays

MIAMI (AP)—The Miami Marlins' spending spree a year ago didn't work, so now they're trying another payroll purge, shedding some of their biggest stars and their multimillion-dollar salaries in one blockbuster deal.

Rebranded in a new ballpark at the start of 2012, the Marlins were up to their old ways Tuesday, swapping high-priced talent for top prospects. Miami traded All-Star shortstop Jose Reyes, left-hander Mark Buehrle and ace right-hander Josh Johnson to the Toronto Blue Jays, a person familiar with the agreement said.

The person confirmed the trade to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because the teams weren't officially commenting. The person said the trade sent several of the Blue Jays' best young players to Miami.

The stunning agreement came less than a year after the Marlins added Reyes, Buehrle and closer Heath Bell in an uncharacteristic $191 million spending binge as they moved into a new ballpark. The acquisitions raised high hopes, but the Marlins instead finished last in the NL East.

The latest paring of salary actually began in July, when the Marlins parted with former NL batting champion Hanley Ramirez, second baseman Omar Infante and right-hander Anibal Sanchez, among others. Bell, the team's high-profile bust, was traded to Arizona last month.

Under owner Jeffrey Loria, long the target of fan acrimony, the Marlins have usually been among baseball's thriftiest teams. Management pledged that would change with the new ballpark, but team officials were disappointed with attendance in 2012, and revenue fell far short of their projections.

Even so, the blockbuster deal came as a shock. The players involved must undergo physicals before the trade becomes final.

Giancarlo Stanton, the Marlins' precocious slugger, wasn't involved in the deal but wasn't happy about it.

Stanton said he was mad about the trade "Plain & Simple," he tweeted shortly after the news broke.

The housecleaning was also the subject of much mirth on Twitter.

"Good trade, I think we won it," tweeted FakeSamson, a site that mocks Marlins president David Samson.

Toronto star Jose Bautista had a different interpretation.

"Its a good day to be a bluejay!" he tweeted.

The swap was easier for the Marlins to swing because of their longstanding policy of refusing to include no-trade clauses in contracts.

The deal gave an immediate boost to the Blue Jays, who have not reached the playoffs since winning their second consecutive World Series in 1993. Toronto went 73-89 this season and finished fourth in the AL East for the fourth straight year, again falling short in a division that includes big spenders.

The Marlins changed their name a year ago but failed to change their losing ways, and instead of contending for a playoff berth, they finished 69-93, their worst record since 1999.

The Marlins drew more than 2.2 million fans but had projected attendance of nearly 3 million. Team officials blamed the difference in part on manager Ozzie Guillen's laudatory comments early in the year about former Cuban leader Fidel Castro, which antagonized a large segment of an already-small fan base.

Guillen was fired after only one season with the team and replaced this month by the Marlins' former backup catcher, Mike Redmond.

President of baseball operations Larry Beinfest hinted at a big change in direction less than two weeks ago.

"We've kind of lost our Marlins way," he said. "The real Marlins way was we always outperformed our challenges. Whatever our challenges were, whether it was playing in a football stadium or weather or a lack of fans, or lack of revenue for that matter, we always found a way to outperform our challenges."

It now appears management will field a team with the expectation players will outperform their contracts, which was the franchise model for most of the past decade. The roster shake-up during the season reduced the payroll to $90.3 million from $112 million on opening day, and it now could be dramatically lower next season.

Reyes has $96 million left on a deal that expires in 2018. Buehrle has $52 million remaining on a deal that expires in 2015.

While the team was a disappointment, newcomers Buehrle and Reyes played up to expectations. Buehrle went 13-13 with a 3.74 ERA and topped 200 innings for the 12th year in a row. Reyes hit .287 with 40 steals in 160 games.

Johnson, who led the NL in ERA in 2010, went 8-14 this year with a 3.81 ERA. He was limited to nine starts in 2011 because of right shoulder inflammation.

In their 20 seasons the Marlins have reached the postseason only twice, as wild-card teams in 1997 and 2003. Both times they won the World Series.

SGA December Ace, Turkey Shoot this Sunday

The Saipan Golfers Association has set its December 2012 Monthly Ace and Turkey Shoot this coming Sunday, Nov. 18, 2012, at the Coral Ocean Point.

Showtime is at 9am with tee time an hour later at 10am. All SGA non-ace winners will aggressively pursue the much-coveted title for a chance to compete in SGA's 2012 Ace of Aces championship scheduled for Dec. 8 and 9, 2012 at the Laolao Bay Golf Resort.

The December tournament will include 10 juicy turkeys in addition to the set prizes. One turkey per winner will be enforced so that the turkeys will be spread out amongst the 10 winners.

The December winner will join the 2012 SGA monthly aces: Adam Hardwicke (November); Ray Dela Cruz (October); Steve Jang (September); Frank Castro (August); John Cruz (July); Ned Norita (June); Ben Aldan (May); Art Deleon Guerrero (April); Das Krishnan (March); Juan L. Babauta (February); and Bob Magofna (January).

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Saipan Golfers Association members pose for a group shot following last month's tournament. The club will hold its December Ace and Turkey Shoot this weekend at the Coral Ocean Point Golf Resort.

Earlier this year SGA celebrated the hole-in-one Das Krishnan holed in the September ace tournament.

Last month, Hardwicke and Mariano Fajardo tied for first place with a net score of 69. Through the scorecard tie breaker method, Hardwicke was dubbed the first place winner and SGA 's November Ace, automatically placing Mariano second and Rick Kautz third with a net score of 71.

Closest to the pin winners were James Nelson on hole No. 6, Steve Balakrishna on hole No. 8, Greg Sablan on hole No. 12, and Norman Tenorio on hole No. 16. Longest drives went to SGA's young long-knocker Ned Norita on holes No. 2 and 17. ***(SGA)***

BACK-TO-BACK

From Page 28

battling for a slot on Division 1 and the winner will be decided once the double round-robin competition is completed. Matansa has one more game left this season and incidentally it is versus MP United.

Against Shirley's, Matansa pulled off a come-from-behind win after trailing in the first half, 0-1.

Resty Vergara scored for Shirley's in the 37th minute and his teammates contained Matansa's strikers in the first half to gain momentum of the match. However, Shirley's failed to maintain its tough defense in the second half, allowing Matansa to steal the win behind the goals of Dhiraj Chhetri and Ho Jin Woo. Chhetri broke the ice for Matansa in the 58th minute, while Woo connected on the go-ahead goal 20 minutes later.

Chhetri and Woo again showed up for Matansa in their second straight game with the former posting a hat-trick against Kanoa. Chhetri put Matansa in the board midway in the first half and put the finishing touches on their easy win with back-to-back goals in the 83rd and 88th minute. Woo made the other goal for Matansa in the second half (50th), while Makani Gramlich prevented a Kanoa shutout with his goal in the 82nd.

DIVISION A
Wild Bills 3, KFAS 0

In the opening game last Sunday, Wild Bill's got a free win after Korean Football Association on Saipan walked out of the match midway in the first half.

The walkout stemmed from two yellow guards issued on KFAS goalie Yong Choi, who was given his first after a defensive infraction and got the second one after contesting the call and exchanging words to the referee. Before the incident, three KFAS and one from Wild Bill's were also cautioned for rough plays.

According to game official Glenn Perez, any contested calls should be coursed through the team captain and M-League has zero tolerance on second motions and verbal tussles among players and officials.

The frustrated KFAS crew left with the match tied at 1-all. Dan Wollak scored the first goal in the game (12th minute), while Jin Wook Cho made the equalizer three minutes later. KFAS had a good chance of winning the match, as Wild Bill's was without key players Jeeraphong Thoensaket, Thanyakorn Konkoed, and Norman Camacho, who were slapped with one-game suspensions for unsportsmanlike fouls in their previous game.

With KFAS deciding not to finish the game, the two goals scored were nullified and Wild Bill's was awarded a 3-0 win via forfeiture.

Despite the walkout, KFAS will still be allowed to play, but Northern Mariana Islands Football Association general secretary Ed Salas said the team is likely to be slapped with a monetary penalty. NMIFA will also review the game report to determine if there are players who will get sanctions.

Tan Holdings 1, Paire 1

The other Division 1 match had Tan Holdings drawing Paire.

Wai Woo Lee gave Tan Holdings a 1-0 halftime lead with his goal in the 38th minute and the team hung on to the driver's seat for the majority of the second half before Timothy Tawanpiy scored the game-tying goal three minutes before the match wrapped up.

With the draw, Tan Holdings kept the top spot in the division with his 3-2-1 slate, but the four other teams are not far behind with Inter Godfather's holding a 2-1-2 record, Wild Bill's improving to 2-1-1 card, while KFAS having a 1-1-2 slate, and Paire owning a 1-1-3 mark.

The top team in Division 1 will be declared champion, while the last placer will be relegated to Division 2.

HI-5

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teams. Hi-5, however, erupted in the second quarter and broke ahead, 29-18, at the half.

Cabaltica unleashed an 8-point flurry that was topped off with a 3-pointer by Feria at the end of the period.

Hi-5 held down the fort after intermission and maintained a healthy, 45-32, margin heading into crunch time.

Cabaltica, Feria, and Frank Macahito each added a pair of baskets that were complemented by a long ball from Jed Villanueva late in the third period.

Rollers 2 gave its all until the very end, but Hi-5 rang in five pressure-packed free throws and managed to limit its mistakes in the last two minutes to secure its reservation into the next round.

Three of the charity shots came from Feria, who delivered 14 points that supported Cabaltica's game-high 17, but it was really Hi-5's defense that made the difference in this matchup as Rollers 2's Prince Factor came out as the only scorer to break into double figures (16) for his team.

Tuesday's pairing between Rollers 1 and Ol'Aces also ended knotted after the opening period at 16-apiece, as Rollers 1's Ralph Francisco and Ol'Aces' Joseph Aguilar each carried their respective squads with 8 points.

It remained very tight through the second quarter, but Ol'Aces managed a slim 29-27 lead at the half. Jeremy Alfred led the team from Oleai with 5 markers.

Both teams continued to play tough defense after the pause as Ol' Aces clung to a 1-point edge, 40-39, heading into the final period. Ol'Aces converted a handful of its points from the free throw line in the third quarter.

Rollers 1 trailed for the majority of the game, but never gave up and pulled off the rally in the end thanks largely to Erik Dela Rosa's tough play down low in the clutch.

It took a group effort, but Dela Rosa got a big shot to drop late in the game and followed it up with a crucial free throw that secured the victory.

His 12-point contribution supported Ralph Francisco's 14 game-high total, while Aguilar tallied a baker's dozen for Ol'Aces in defeat.

MONDAY

Hi-5 56 – CabaLtica 17, Feria 14, Macahito 11, Villanueva 6, Cristobal 4, Hockett 4.

Rollers 2 50 – Factor 16, Morales 9, Ano 8, Espinosa 8, Malonzo 4, Cayading 3.

Scoring by quarters: 10-10, 29-18, 45-32, 56-50.

TUESDAY

Rollers 1 51 – Francisco 14, Dela Rosa 12, Suarez 8, Darag 6, Maranan 5, Lee 2.

Ol'Aces 49 – Aguilar 13, D. Olopai 10, Ichihara 6, Alfred 6, Teregeyo 6, Rangamar 4, R. Olapai 2, Rogolifoi 2.

Scoring by quarters: 16-16, 27-29, 39-40, 51-49.

MATANSA

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of Matansa goalie Cristy Villaflor before hitting the post and rolling out. Mei Demapan had the final attempt in the last two minutes, but the ball went over to the right post, dropping MP United-1 to a 3-1-4 slate.

IFC-1 2, Shirley's 0

Independents FC-1 took the solo lead in Division B after shutting out Shirley's in the first game last Monday.

Miles Rodriguez and Dyenina Diaz logged one goal apiece for the pacesetters to hand Shirley's its second loss in seven games.

Rodriguez found her target early, as he scored in the third minute and IFC-1 continued to play good defense to silence Shirley's. IFC-1's second goal also came early, as Diaz lit up the scoreboard just three minutes into the final frame.

Tan Holdings 6, IFC-2 3

Tan Holdings foiled an IFC sweep after beating the latter's second team.

Mary Kay Alferos and Chloe Salvosa did the damage for Tan Holdings, as both strikers recorded three goals apiece. Alferos drained twin goals in the opening half, which ended in a standoff, as Vanessa Gramlich and Jasmin Rayphand scored one goal apiece for IFC-2.

Then in the second half, Salvosa had a hat-trick, while Alferos added one more to give Tan Holdings its third straight victory after dropping its first four matches.

Only Coquina Teregeyo scored for IFC-2 in the second half and the team remained at the bottom half of the eight-squad field with its 1-1-5 record.

Paire 5, Matansa 2

Guinevere Borja also recorded a hat-trick last Friday to lift Paire to a 5-2 victory over Matansa.

Paire improved to a 4-1-2 slate for a tie for third place with Shirley's.

Borja fired all her three goals in the first half, while Luna Litulimar and Kate Campbell contributed one apiece in the second half. Aldrich scored the twin goals for Matansa, making all of them in the final frame.

DIVISION A
MP United 8, IFC 4

MP United broke into the win column in Division A after beating IFC (2-0-2)

Manami Tadokoro led MP United's first win, as he knocked down four goals. Negahr Rastguiy chipped in two, while Amy Taylor and Kayla Ito netted one each.

Tadokoro opened the first eight minutes of play win a pair of goals, while Taylor carded one in the 10th minute before Tadokoro completed a hat-trick two minutes later. Ito and Rastguiy then converted the last two goals in the first half for MP United's comfortable 6-2 lead. Linday Davis and Rahtree Ditwiset scored one goal apiece for IFC in the first half.

David had one more in the second and Pratoon Stoffer nailed the other goal for IFC, which still fell short after Rastguiy and Tadokoro scored anew for MP United in the final frame.

Shirleys 4, Paire 1

Shirley's kept its undefeated record (4-0-0), following an easy win over Paire in the other Division A match last Friday.

Jeraldine Castillo canned twin goals for the division leader, while Marielle Gariguez and Jhaneeka Atalig posted one each. Patricia Coleman made the lone goal for Paire, which fell to a 1-0-3 card.

GOLDEN

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After bowing to defending champion Saipan Badminton Club in Week 1, 10-20, Golden Racquets won nine of the 10 matches against Shirley's en route to a 25-5 victory in Week 2 games held last Saturday and Sunday at the TSL Sports Complex.

Golden Racquets prevailed in three of the four men's doubles matches and swept the women's and mixed doubles tiff to hand Shirley's its debut loss.

In the men's C doubles, Jordan Pangelinan and Eydie Uy survived Brandon Talania and Bernard Aquino, 20-21, 21-13, 21-18; Roger Vales and Alvin Alvarez also posted a three-game win over Ezekiel Macario and Aries Cordero in the men's B; and Vic Regis and Pangelinan downed Jun Estolas and Puy Macario in men's BC, 21-8, 21-8.

Jerry Hibi and Joseph Santos gave Shirley's its lone victory against Golden Racquets, winning over Edwin Montoya and Edwin Maratas in the men's A, 20-21, 21-16, 21-16.

In the women's C doubles Golden Racquets' Janelle Pangelinan and Jen Cadina needed three games to thwart Roma Barlao and Kimberly Ocampo, 19-21, 21-15, 21-16, while Cheng Saturno and Anna Alvarez took only two games to down Jaja Samonte and Toshiko Obata, 21-11, 21-14.

Golden Racquets' victories in the mixed doubles were also recorded after only two games with AB division's Noli Santos and Jen Savellano beating Hibi and Windy Fernandez, 21-8, 21-8; BC's Kanata Omori and Savellano sweeping Brandon Talania and Elma Labuson, 21-12, 21-12; and A's Maratas and Alvarez defeating Joseph Santos and Obata, 21-20, 21-15.

With its win in Week 2, Golden Racquets moved up to second place in the team standings with its 35-25 record.

SBC retained the No. 1 spot, following another win in Week 3. The defending champions crushed the Berks Blazers, 21-9, to improve to a 41-19 slate. The Berks Blazers fell to the third spot with their 33-27 card. TAGA Badminton Club and Shirley's are at the bottom of the standings with their 6-24 and 5-25 records, respectively.

SBC took eight of the 10 matches with four of them won after three hard fought games. Handing the defending champions three-game victories were men's B doubles' Jexler Caranto and Oh Im Bog, mixed AB's Glenn Bluutjens and Lee So Young, mixed BC's Caranto and Julie Lee, and mixed B's Lee and Oh.

SBC then got wins via sweeps from Alma Ortega and Hannah Choi (women's AB), Joel Ortega and Caranto (men's BC), Sam Jones and Bluutjens (men's A), and Son Jae Ok and Joel Ortega (men's C).

The pairs of Ferdie Arago and Lani Bartolome and Jane Tupas and Arlene Naguit gave the Berks Blazers their two victories. Arago and Bartolome won their mixed A match over Jones and Choi, 17-21, 21-16, 21-13, while Tupas and Naguit defeated Bae Woo Kyung and Dianne Francisco in the women's C doubles, 21-19, 21-16.

3rd Annual Ride 'Round the Ridge

Bikers get ready at the starting line of the 3rd Annual Ride 'Round the Ridge at the Saipan Radar Station in As Matuis earlier this month.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Youth rider Erico Castro makes a turn at a curve heading out to the Saipan Radar Station.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Race organizer Brad Ruszala (in green shirt) poses with some of the bikers.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Female biker Glorybel Tan smiles for the camera.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

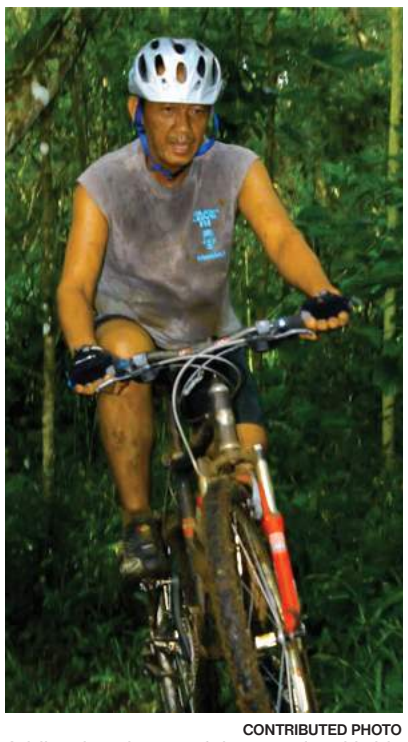
A pack of bikers stay close to each other in the early part of the race.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Bikers slow down as they pedal past a slick road.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Ariel Garcia is covered with mud as he gets out of the trail.

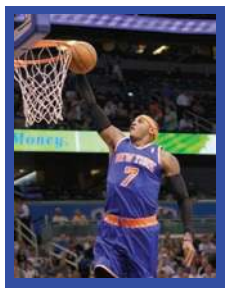


CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

A biker heads out of the woods with his bike covered with mud.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

A biker gestures as he pedals along a flat road in Marpi.



Knicks hold off Magic to improve to 5-0

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Back-to-back wins for Matansa

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Two Matansa defenders (in yellow uniforms) chase a Kanoa Resort striker during their game in Division 2 of the M-League last Sunday at the Oleai Sports Complex Field.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Matansa Football Club kept its bid for a promotion to Division 1 of the M-League after taking back-to-back victories in Division 2 matches at the Oleai Sports Complex Field.

Matansa first played Shirley's FC on Nov. 7 and eked out a 2-1 win before posting a 4-1 triumph over Kanoa Resort last Sunday. Now holding a 6-0-1 record, Matansa is still in hot pursuit of undefeated MP United (5-0-0).

The Top 2 teams in Division 2 are

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Golden Racquets bounces back, whips Shirley's

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Golden Racquets' Anna Alvarez receives a serve during her and Edwin Maratas' mixed doubles A game against Shirley's Joseph Santos and Toshiko Obata in the Traders Insurance tournament last Saturday at the TSL Sports Complex.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Golden Racquets nearly swept Shirley's Badminton Club to bounce back from a loss in the opening week of the 2012 Traders Insurance Badminton Team Tournament.

See GOLDEN on Page 26

Hi-5, Rollers 1 advance in U20 playoffs

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
walter_sutherland@saipantribune.com
RREPORTER

After winning just four out of nine games during the regular season, Hi-5 came alive when it counted and knocked off third-ranked Rollers 2, 56-50, last Monday as the playoffs of the Rotary Club of Saipan's 21st Annual Youth Basketball League U20 age division resumed at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

In Tuesday's playoff match, Rollers 1 barely made it past fifth seed Ol'Aces, 51-49. Rollers 1 faced top-ranked and undefeated Sonics at the Ada Gym last night, while Hi-5 will be paired against second seed Marianas Resort/Northern Marianas College Proa in this evening's second semifinal paring at 5:30pm.

The playoffs conclude tomorrow with the championship game scheduled for 6:30pm, preceded by a 5:30pm consolation match.

Monday's game between Hi-5 and Rollers 2 was locked at 10-all after the opening frame as the former's Reynald Caballtica and Emerson Feria and Rollers 2's Jeron Ano and Mike Espinosa each tallied a couple of buckets for their respective

See HI-5 on Page 26

WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND

Hi-5's Don Hockett fires an open mid-range jumper from his sweet spot against Rollers 2 during their Rotary U20 playoff match last Monday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Matansa back on track in futsal

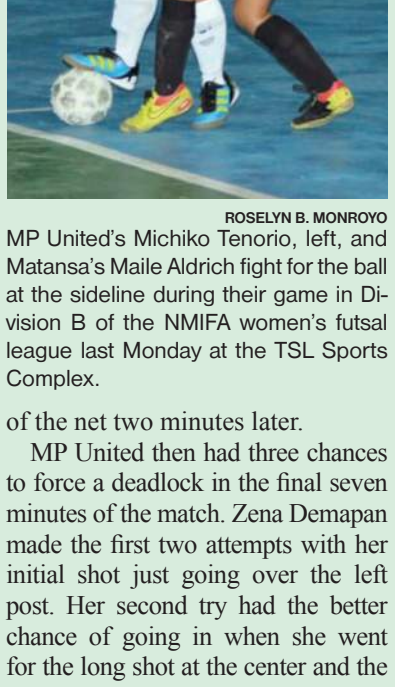
By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Matansa regrouped after absorbing back-to-back losses, as it slipped past MP United 1, 4-3, in the last game in Division B of the 2012 NMIFA Women's Futsal Fall League last Monday night at the TSL Sports Complex.

Matansa swept its first five matches, but bowed to Tan Holdings and Paire last week before returning to the winning column after surviving MP United's second-half rally. With the victory, Matansa now has a 6-0-2 win-draw-loss record (18 points) and just one point behind new leader Independents FC-1 (6-1-1).

Maile Aldrich, Bernadette Horey, and Tintin Conlon scored one goal apiece, giving Matansa a comfortable 3-1 lead in the first half. Mei Demapan drilled MP United-1's lone goal in the first 25 minutes of play.

Another goal from Aldrich right in the opening minute of the second half made it a 4-1 led for Matansa before MP United-1 threatened a comeback, nailing back-to-back goals in a span of two minutes. Lydia Tan connected on a goal from the left wing in the 34th minute, while Zena Demapan also found the back



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

MP United's Michiko Tenorio, left, and Matansa's Maile Aldrich fight for the ball at the sideline during their game in Division B of the NMIFA women's futsal league last Monday at the TSL Sports Complex.

of the net two minutes later.

MP United then had three chances to force a deadlock in the final seven minutes of the match. Zena Demapan made the first two attempts with her initial shot just going over the left post. Her second try had the better chance of going in when she went for the long shot at the center and the ball going over the outstretched hands

See MATANSA on Page 26